

The Defender

Saint Michael's College

At the crossroads of budget and inclusion



PHOTO BY ANNA STE. MARIE
ILLUSTRATION BY KARIANNE SHETTER

New housing prices create tension between admin and students

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Mourning Mohammed

Family, friends, and faculty remember Mohammed Al-Kharsan, a graduate student who recently passed away

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Feminism lost?

Do colleges offer enough classes that adequately address issues surrounding gender?

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Lighting night around the world

Because they are away from their homes and families for Lunar New Year and Spring Festival, many Chinese international students adapt their traditional celebrations to the U.S.

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Remembering Mohammed Al-Kharsan

By Paul Detzer
News Editor

Mohammed Al-Kharsan, a top scholar at the College of Languages in Baghdad, came to St. Michael's in June of 2014 to pursue a master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MATESOL), and was working on the final steps of his thesis at the time of his death.

Classmates and faculty knew Al-Kharsan as a quiet, thoughtful scholar with a mission for the future.

"He really wanted to go back and help rebuild his country, improve English education in Iraq, help younger generations, and help train teachers in English as a Second Language," said Mahmoud Arani, advisor to Al-Kharsan and chair of the Applied Linguistics department. "He was really one of my favorite students."

In 2009, former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki began a scholarship initiative, The Higher Committee for Education Development (HCED) in Iraq, to send the brightest Iraqi scholars to the accredited universities to receive undergraduate and graduate education. Al-Kharsan received this prestigious scholarship, allowing him to pursue a higher education at St. Michael's, with plans to bring his knowledge back to his homeland to help future generations.

On February 11, Al-Kharsan was found dead in Senior Hall sitting at his desk, in front of his computer. Al-Kharsan died from a pulmonary embolism, caused by a blood clot obstructing the lung's main artery. He was 25.

According to his advisor, Mahmoud Arani, Al-Kharsan's father in Iraq told his son to go the hospital when he mentioned shortness of breath and leg pain, both signs of a pulmonary embolism.

Al-Kharsan's classmate, Moldir Slam-bay, joined a stream of condolence posts on the MATESOL Facebook page when he wrote, "Whenever I used to talk to him, he would always mention to bring the better changes for his country."

At his memorial service on February 15, "we knew he missed his family and was preoccupied with what was going on back home in Baghdad, but he kept his worries to himself," said professor of Applied Linguistics and Al-Kharsan's thesis co-advisor, Elizabeth O'Dowd.

While Al-Kharsan worked on his final thesis in late fall, his advisors encountered difficulties in contacting him. In a subsequent meeting, Al-Kharsan reluctantly expressed difficulty in coping with



PHOTO COURTESY OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS DEPARTMENT

Mohammed Al-Kharsan came to St. Michael's in 2014 with the dream of bringing his language skills back to his homeland of Iraq.

the chaos his family suffered in Iraq, and he showed a video of his family's house after it had been destroyed in a bombing.

"He showed us a YouTube video of a devastated street, and he also told us that [one of his] brothers, a soldier, had been injured some time previously. He was passionate then, and insisted that he wanted us to understand the desperate

other in case if we will be killed from sudden bombarding or shooting. At that time, I felt so lucky to live in a peaceful place. And I thought the things we worry about living in a peaceful country are nothing compared to Iraq... They live with the thought that their family members and loved ones can be killed in a minute."

he presented his works to his friends and professors on certain occasions.

"Mohammed would reach out in unexpected, beautiful little ways," said O'Dowd, referring to his passions for creative works, such as drawing and poetry.

"One of his talents was sketching, and at the end of [my] grammar course, he handed me this portrait of myself without saying a word as he left the class," O'Dowd said, pointing to a graphite drawing on display beside Al-Kharsan's almost completed thesis. "Then again, just a few weeks ago, in a thesis advising meeting with Dan and me, he offered us these beautiful sketches of Jesus, as a gift for each of us. Mohammed was not a Christian, and for him to reach beyond his world to give us something he knew to be sacred in ours was a wonderful glimpse of his sensitivity and sincerity."

"He was kind and generous, and would respect women," said Kabylbaeva. "He would look at women differently, with respect. Maybe because he grew without a mother. Once he wrote a poem to his girlfriend and I took a lot of time to understand the meaning because every line has a deep meaning. He would explain it to me for a long time," she said.

"We all feel like we have lost a member of our family."

**-Mahmoud Arani,
professor of applied linguistics**

situation in his country," O'Dowd said.

When he was not working on his thesis in Senior Hall, Al-Kharsan used Skype to connect with his family in Iraq on a daily basis, Arani said.

Nazgul Kabylbaeva, a St. Michael's international alumnus from Kyrgyzstan, lived in Senior Hall for a period with Al-Kharsan and remembered Mohammed as respectful, kind and generous.

"There is one thing I will never forget Mohammed said to me," Kabylbaeva said.

"He said: 'in Iraq, when we leave home even for short 15 minute trip somewhere, we say bye and hug each

Despite the stress from coping with the chaos in his home country, Al-Kharsan found solace in artistic expression and exploring literary works.

"I had good memories with him during my time at [St. Michael's]," said fellow HCED scholarship recipient and St. Michael's alumnus, Ali Jumaah from Mosul, Iraq. "One day he told me that if he had a chance, he would be a great movie writer. He was very creative and thoughtful. He enjoyed literature, novels and poetry."

Though Al-Kharsan did not often openly express these creative ventures,

The IT department spearheaded the filming of the memorial service on February 15. This allowed the friends and family of Al-Kharsan to engage in the remembrance across the globe after the sudden and tragic loss.

"We sent a video of the memorial service to his family. They actually saw the video before his body arrived," said Arani. "His body arrived in Iraq this last Sunday [February 21], and he was buried. We are sending his belongings to Iraq, including the pictures he had drawn. We are still in a state of shock, really. We all feel like we have lost a member of our family."

Al-Kharsan's younger brother, Sadiq, created an audio-slideshow for his brother in memoriam that can be viewed on the St. Michael's MATESOL Facebook page.

"He had finished all of the coursework, and his thesis is pretty much done," said Arani. "In May, we are hoping someone from his family will come to receive his degree. If they cannot come, maybe a member of the Iraqi embassy will come to receive it."

St. Michael's will grant Al-Kharsan his master's degree posthumously this May.

"I know my own life was changed by knowing Mohammed, and I think I can speak for those who worked with him, that we'll never forget him, and we are all proud of him," O'Dowd said.



PHOTO BY ANNA ST. MARIE



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AL-KHARSAN FAMILY



PHOTO COURTESY OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS DEPARTMENT

Left: Zaire Peoples, '16, attends Mohammed Al-Kharsan's memorial service on Feb. 15. Top right: The family of Al-Kharsan posted this memorial tribute in Bagdad, Iraq in Feb. 2016. Middle right: Al-Kharsan and friends posing for a photo in the 300's field at St. Michael's College. Bottom: Mahmoud Arani, chair of the Applied Linguistics department, speaks at Al-Kharsan's memorial service..



PHOTO BY ANNA ST. MARIE

Brazil study trip continues despite Zika outbreak

By Katie Zilka
Staff Writer

Plans for an academic trip to Brazil in May will move forward after a faculty member traveled to the South American country where the Zika virus has been associated with the risk of birth defects in children born to pregnant women who contract the disease.

Professor Patricia Delaney, chair of sociology and anthropology at St. Michael's College said that the media has "distorted the risk out of all proportion to reality," and recently travelled to Brazil to assess the threat of the disease.

"I thought carefully about how to minimize the risk of being bitten by a mosquito," Delaney said. "I brought mosquito repellent, long sleeves, and long pants. I slept under a mosquito net or in a screened room. I thought about what time of day or night I would be going to particular locations."

Delaney will be leading the academic

study trip focusing on social development and the environment in Brazil, where the first case of the Zika virus was reported in May of 2015 and has continued to spread in parts of the country since. "Zika is not impacting the part of the country that we are visiting," Delaney said, adding that the risk is very low. "People are thousands of times more likely to be injured or killed in a car accident than they are to contract the Zika virus."

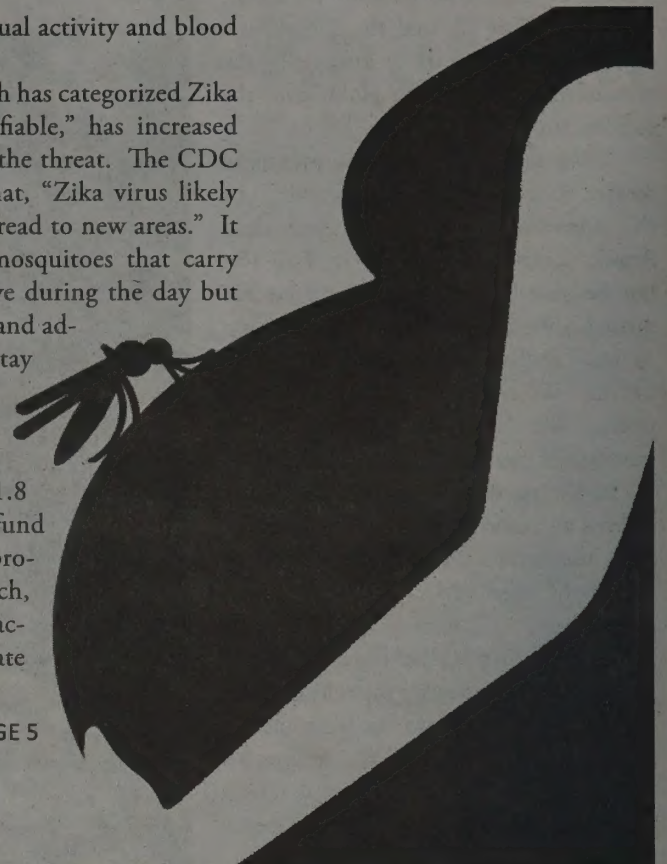
The disease has been reported in parts of South America, the Caribbean, Central America, the Pacific Islands, Africa and more recently, North America. Transmitted through bites from the Aedes mosquito, Zika leaves those who have contracted it with mild symptoms including rash, fever, red eyes, and joint pain lasting up to a week, according to The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

It is suspected to also carry the risk of a birth defect called microcephaly. After a case was reported in Dallas, Texas it was discovered that the disease is also trans-

mitted through sexual activity and blood transfusions.

The CDC, which has categorized Zika as "nationally notifiable," has increased response efforts to the threat. The CDC website explains that, "Zika virus likely will continue to spread to new areas." It also reports that mosquitoes that carry Zika, "are aggressive during the day but also bite at night," and advises travelers to stay protected at all hours of the day. President Obama has requested a \$1.8 billion emergency fund for agencies to promote further research, the creation of a vaccine, and to educate the public on Zika.

SEE BRAZIL, PAGE 5



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF LORIE SHAULL VIA NOUN PROJECT

How to be safe and warm on campus this winter



Matthaus Ayers, '17, fishes through a drilled hole in the ice on Colchester Pond.

PHOTO BY SETH BOUDREAU

By Haylee Tower
Staff Writer

During the winter months, the weather can be dangerous and even fatal if not treated with caution, especially if you are someone who spends a lot of time outside walking to and from class. Be sure to follow these tips in order to ensure that you remain safe this season.

Walk and drive carefully

Doug Babcock, the head of the Public Safety Department at Saint Michael's College, stresses the importance of pre-

paredness during the winter months. This winter especially has been difficult due to record highs and lows in temperature, sometimes a day apart from one another. This introduces an element of unpredictability. Babcock warns to be careful of slippery ice on the ground, as falling can be a painful result of walking too quickly or confidently. "It is easy to misjudge how slippery a step or chunk of packed snow is," Babcock said. "A normal stride that would not be a problem most days may result in a disaster on ice. Running and exercising requires even more careful thought."

This weather can also complicate driving. Beware of black ice on the roads, and always be sure to check the temperature outside before driving.

Dress smartly

"Dress in layers, including good footwear. If you are going to an outdoor activity, bring a second set of clothing to change into if you get wet," Babcock said. He advises against wearing leggings if you plan on being outside for an extended period of time. "Leggings do very little to prevent wind chill temperatures from drying out or causing frostbite. During

extreme cold, like we had over Valentine's Day weekend, skin can be frostbitten or damaged in 15 minutes or less."

"As you're active, you're going to build up varying levels of heat depending on the activity, so rather than relying on one big, warm jacket, [have] a series of layers that you can take off," said Eben Widlund, Assistant Director of the Wilderness Program. These layers should be able to resist moisture. "Cotton is a big problem, because it will absorb a tremendous amount of moisture, and it loses all of its insulating value once it gets wet. So try synthetic polyesters, polypropylenes, nylons, wool, silk, and down for insulating layers, and then a waterproof, windproof exterior layer."

Don't rely on the 'liquor blanket' to keep you warm

Contrary to popular myth, drinking alcohol does not make you warmer. College students who binge drink and then go outside in the bitter cold are especially at risk. "Alcohol does not 'warm the blood' as they used to say. It lowers a person's inhibitions, including sensitivity to or concern about being cold," Babcock said.

According to Professor Colin Drummond, head of the Section of Alcohol Research at King's College London, on www.drinkaware.co.uk, alcohol dilates the blood vessels near your skin, which means more blood—and heat—flows to these vessels.

SEE SAFE, PAGE 6

Winter weather causes pipe bursts

By Claire Fogarty
Staff Writer

Lunchtime on Monday, February 15, a time when Alliot dining hall is usually bustling with the rush of students and faculty, tables and chairs were vacant as water dripped down from the ceiling and St. Michael's firefighters worked to sweep accumulating pools out the emergency exit doors.

A similar scene unfolded the following Tuesday, as Cheray Hall was significantly flooded, causing the building to be evacuated for several hours. "The water was pouring into all three floors. Once we got to the third floor, it looked like it was raining inside the building," said David Sproul, '17.

The cold weather temperatures this winter in Vermont have inconvenienced the campus over the last few of weeks. Pipe-bursts and floods around main and north campuses were a prevalent and worrisome problem last week that has led to several undesirable situations for many within the community including the temporary closure of the dining hall and the Cheray academic building.

Extreme weather conditions were

the main contribution to the entirety of the pipe bursting around campus according to James Farrington, director of Saint Michael's facilities. "If it hadn't been -18 degrees outside with strong winds, the floods would not have happened. The older buildings tend to be a little less insulated and allow more air infiltration." Cold buildings lead to the water in the fire sprinklers freezing, and ultimately cracking the pipes within the building, causing leakage.

St. Michael's is handling the problem by taking precautionary measures and closely monitoring the pipe system, especially in the older buildings on campus. By improving control systems, monitoring buildings, and identifying problems sooner, campus faculty has halted the flooding issues as of recent, however, with continued fluctuating weather conditions, several problems could arise even when the school takes precautionary measures.

In the very beginning of the semester, Hamel residential hall, on north campus, had a pipe break along with the age of the building was much of the cause of the problem up on north campus. The older age of the building, along with interior heating issues and question of a window being left



PHOTO BY ALYSON CAMPBELL

Alliot hall flooded with water after a pipe burst earlier this month.

open during break caused pipes to burst.

"I was in my room when it happened so I was pretty concerned and aggravated that water was pouring out of the ceiling onto my bed and other belongings," said Shamus Cahalane, '17, who lives on the first floor of Hamel hall. "After that I was basically told I was not allowed to live in my room anymore but that I was welcomed to stay at the Days Inn Hotel across the street. I was not allowed

back in my room to get any of my belongings until hours later which was very inconvenient to do my school work and go on with my day."

The damages in Alliot Hall were less than \$2000, including time and labor costs. As for Cheray, only a few projectors and some ceiling tiles were damaged in the flood within the academic building. Damage was limited due to the quick response of many departments accessing the problem.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VISUALBEST.COM

BRAZIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Micaela Leaska, '18, will be going to Salvador Da Bahia, Brazil, for two weeks with Delaney and 12 peers to work with community issues such as lack of sanitary water and deforestation. Leaska said that she is not worried about being affected by the virus as long as she takes the proper precautions. She added that DEET, a CDC recommended insect repellent, is "one of the only repellents that actually will protect us from the virus."

Leaska said that she has stayed updated with the spread of Zika. "I've done research on the spread of the Zika virus and how there are now 14 cases in the United States, also how it's been travelling through all of Brazil and some of Africa. I have been looking into how it will affect the Olympics that will be held in Brazil during the summer." As for her parents, "They want to stay educated regarding the amount of cases in the United States and to be aware of stagnant water in the areas that I will be travelling to. However, I don't think

my parents are directly concerned about me getting the virus."

"We will certainly be open to changing our schedule or activity list in order to continue to minimize our risks," Delaney said.

Peggy Imai, director of the study abroad program, said the college has been conscientious about the safety of travelling students. "There has been a lot of discussion with our people from health services, the vice president of student affairs office, and the risk assessment committee," Imai said. She explained that people are in "panic mode" and she plans to stick to the facts to make an honest assessment of the danger the disease presents.

Like the Zika virus, Ebola was a threat to the study abroad program last winter, and ultimately postponed a trip to Ghana until further information about the illness was released. Other trips considering the risk from the virus include MOVE's service trip to the Dominican Republic in March.

"I feel confident that the students will return to the states Zika-free," Imai said. "They may be drenched in DEET but I'm sure they will be safe."

An Empty Seat in the Supreme Court

What it means for millenials

By Traynor Gauthier
Staff Writer

The death of Supreme Court Justice, Antonin Scalia earlier this month sent the country into a frenzy. Scalia was considered one of the most conservative Supreme Court justices in history and a new justice could shift the court's decisions dramatically. News media flurried around the legacy of 80-year-old Scalia and who is the next to receive the high honor of filling his chair.

Americans of younger generations will be impacted significantly by this shift, because the next justice to be elected will be a key contributor to countrywide rulings for years to come.

Normally, it is the President of the United States that would nominate a replacement who would then meet the members of the GOP where there would be a vote on the nominee's inclusion to the Supreme Court. On Feb. 23, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell along with the rest of the GOP members stated that the party will not vote for a new nominee, and would not even bother to meet with one.

Until a new justice is chosen, the Supreme Court will be split evenly between four conservative-leaning appointees and four liberal-leaning appointees in the remaining eight justices. For the first time in over 30 years, decisions the Supreme Court reaches may be tied.

"If the Supreme Court vote goes four to four, the lower court's decision stands," says William Grover, a political science professor at St. Michael's. This can impact the decisions made on topics such as abortion laws, health care laws, and voter ID laws. Grover noted



PHOTO BY BILL FITZ-PATRICK VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

President Ronald Reagan speaks with Antonin Scalia in the Oval Office, July 1986.

that just how much these decisions will affect students depend on the specific case.

One case that will have a massive impact on college students is the Voter ID case. The case is about certain states restricting what types of picture ID's citizens are allowed to vote with. "They say it's about in-person voter fraud, but that never happens," said Professor John Hughes, a political science professor with an expertise on the Supreme Court. "It is about suppressing the minority and youth

vote who tend to [vote] Democratic." The way the law stands in states such as Texas and Wisconsin, student IDs will not be allowed as voting identification, however gun ownership ID's will be allowed. Hughes said, "It seems to be aimed at young people."

When this case goes to the Supreme Court, if it gets voted on, it may end up in a tie, meaning the courts that have voted for the law will be able to uphold it. When the Supreme Court splits a vote, the case is set back. "It is the same as

if they had never been asked." Professor Hughes said. "They can reschedule the vote for next year, but deferring is not a good option."

"People don't realize how important the Supreme Court is," said Julia Hughes, '17, a first time voter in this election. "If cases worked their way up to the Supreme Court, they should be decided by [The Supreme Court]." Hughes said that it is more important for people to vote in this presidential election knowing that the new president will nominate a new judge.

SAFE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

That takes blood and heat away from the core of your body. So while you might not be bothered by the cold, your vital organs aren't as warm as you might think they are.

Keep your doors and windows shut
College students should keep winter

outside and refrain from opening windows and doors to ventilate their living spaces because doing so can lead to pipes bursting- an issue the college has already faces multiple times this season due to such fluctuating temperatures.

Staying safe on frozen lakes

In just this past month in Vermont, a man who was out ice fishing died in Swanton after his truck broke through the ice of

Lake Champlain, and a Vermont toddler was found dead in a frigid Waterbury brook near his daycare. In light of these unfortunate events, it is important to consider how you can stay safe while on and near ice.

In order to prevent further instances of vehicles falling through the ice, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department recommends on their website that cars and trucks be left

on shore. If you are going ice fishing, the Department recommends you bring a fully-charged cell phone to call for help if needed. To prepare yourself for the worst case scenario, the department recommends that you wear a floating device and let someone know ahead of time where you plan on fishing and when you plan on returning.



The digital dinner party:

First impressions in the professional world

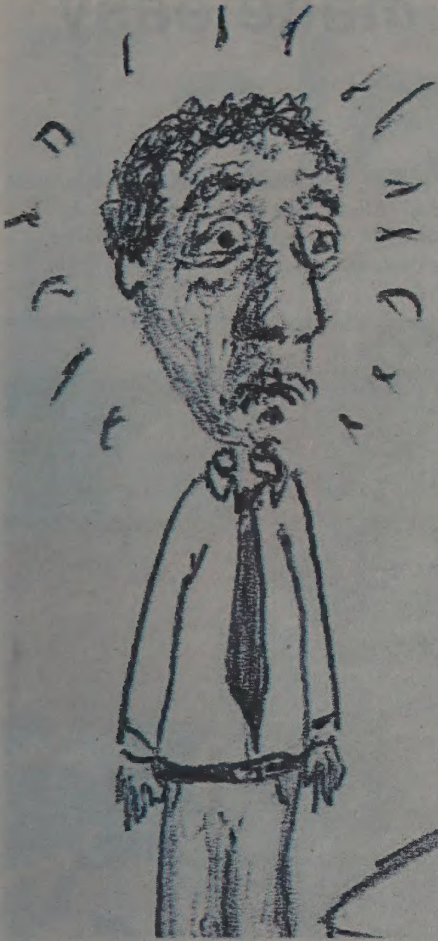


ILLUSTRATION BY JACK MCGEE

By Kelsey Bode
Features & Lifestyle Editor

Could you see yourself getting your first job after graduation because of a tweet? It happened to alumna Gabbi Hall, '13. Hall had been following a web show and tweet chat called Higher Ed Live. When the show's host, Seth Odell, who worked at Southern New Hampshire University, tweeted that he was looking to hire a social media manager, Hall tweeted back asking for information about the job. He emailed her, she was interviewed, and she got the job.

Social media is social-- people often don't think about it as a professional tool. "People may instinctively think of social media as being personal or separate from their professional lives," said James Buck, an adjunct professor at St. Michael's College who teaches a course on social media. "But it depends on your profession."

Public social media outlets like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and even LinkedIn can be a double-edged sword. As a first impression, your online footprint can make or break you. Incorporating your professional goals into your social media presence is the first step to cultivating a social media presence to be proud of.

Defining those goals can be difficult. Aislinn Doyle, career counselor at St. Michael's College, recommends asking yourself, "What am I trying to accomplish? Wherever you are in that path, think about what you want to accomplish with your career goals and express that."

Doyle recommends starting by doing a Google search of yourself. From there you can begin to consider how to cultivate your social media presence.

What should you avoid on social media?

"There's no single rule," Doyle said. "If you have that moment of 'I don't know if I want a future boss to see this' then don't post it or get to know your privacy settings. Keep in mind that if you post it, it's out there."

Doyle suggests avoiding posting anything depicting or alluding to illegal activities, anything disrespectful, bad-talking

outspoken and tell the truth about what you're thinking all the time, or whether your social life is important to you-- if that's something you want to tell the world and you can't live without saying, then you should say those things. Just know that you need a job that accommodates that."

So what do employers like to see on social media?

"Outside of professional skills and experiences, employers like to see that students are involved with the community and giving back," Doyle said. Posting about fundraisers, things you are passionate about, and places you volunteer

ple can jump from one to the other and it feels cohesive."

Balancing professionalism and personality online is a challenge.

"As part of managing an image or a personal brand, it makes sense that you have to balance both personality and professionalism, because people don't want a dry, boring feed," Buck said. "They want some personality."

What is a personal brand?

"A personal brand is a fancy way of saying who you are," Doyle said. "We're all cultivating our Facebook or Instagram feeds, maybe we aren't thinking about it in a professional sense, but we're thinking about how we want other people to see us. We've been doing it for a while, it's just thinking about how you might benefit from it professionally, not just personally."

Social media in the context of professionalism can be intimidating, but it doesn't have to be.

"Think of it as going to a dinner party," Buck said. "You tell some personal stories but there will be a limit, like who am I around, who am I talking to, how do I present myself? It's just like socializing in other spheres."

There's always one person who lights up the conversation at a dinner party. Just like you might take cues from someone who can work a room, Hall recommends taking notes from the social media profiles of professionals you admire in your field. You never know what opportunities are out there.

As part of managing an image or a personal brand, it makes sense that you have to balance both personality and professionalism, because people don't want a boring feed."

-James Buck, adjunct professor

an employer or an organization you belong to, treating others poorly on social media (trolling), slurs, hate speech, and anything about 'hot button issues' that an employer might find inappropriate.

Ultimately, it depends on who you are as an individual, what you want, and where you want to be. "You don't want to censor yourself so much that you're trying to force yourself to appear a certain way that you're not comfortable being," Buck said.

"If you're someone who wants to be

are good ways to show employers your personality in a positive way. Doyle also suggests posting about industry topics to show that you are knowledgeable and know what you're talking about on sites like LinkedIn.

Since graduating, Hall has continued to improve her professional social media presence. "I tried to keep things consistent between my various accounts," Hall said in a phone interview. "For instance, the profile and bio on my Twitter profile and on my Instagram are very similar, so peo-

College clutter consultant: spring cleaning made easy



PHOTO BY KATHRYN MIYAHIRA

Left: Ellen Callie McGovern, '16, looks through her organized and decluttered closet. Below: A cluttered college dorm room.



By Kathryn Miyahira

Lifestyle & Features Editor

"Spring cleaning," sounds good. But thinking of taking on your mess of a room, nonetheless your home, can seem like a daunting task. Ellen Callie McGovern, '16, has taken the task to heart, and now defines her lifestyle as minimalist.

McGovern first began to think about how much she used when studying abroad last year in Florence, Italy. Traveling with just a backpack or small bag allowed her to learn more about the few items she could live off. Driving back to school in her two-door car, she packed two bags of clothing, two bins for under her bed, towels and bedding--less than half of the normal college student. That's it. She shares tips for aspiring minimalists.

Identify your problem area

For a majority of people, the issue is clothing. Many people buy "trendy" clothing that go out of style or you don't like them anymore and they just sit in your closet. Katherine McGuinness, '16, a media studies, journalism and digital arts major who is currently writing a book about the overconsumption of clothing, talks more about the trend of fast fashion. "T.J.Maxx ran an ad about a college student who said 'I never wear the same thing twice.' It creates this sort of mentality that you buy something that is in style in the moment that you'll wear and will either go out of style so you won't wear it anymore or will fall apart," said McGuinness.

Pick things that make you happy to use or wear

McGovern refers to *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, a wildly popular book by Marie Kondo, who says that "you only want things in your life that make you happy. If it's something that has been in your closet for a while that is maybe expensive but you never wore it or someone gave it to you as a gift but it's not your style and you feel guilty because you don't wear it, those items can hold a lot of emotion. Getting rid of them can help free yourself of that."

When McGovern's grandmother died, her family got a lot of her purses that McGovern doesn't use because it isn't a style she is particularly drawn to. "You feel like since it's your grandmother's you should keep it. Obviously keep certain sentimental items but I think people attach too much sentimentality to an item. You can't keep everything that someone gives you. You have to choose what you can carry and what you have to leave"

New homes for your clothes and items

"I found multiple places that would buy my clothes like Plato's Closet. It wasn't a ton of money, but it was worth it." If you are willing to invest some time, you could make a profit. When McGovern sold a jacket on Ebay, it took about a month, but she made \$65 selling it to a girl in Australia. For things you don't sell and are still in good condition, donating is the way to go.

It is important to be conscious of how you get rid of this clothing too. "Every

year 13 million tons of fabric gets thrown away and only 2 million tons of that is recycled.

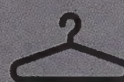
That means 11 million tons of unwanted

clothing is discarded every year, which is upsetting," said Guinness.

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A clean sweep

Tips from Callie McGovern to help see what you use and what you don't



The hanger method

Turn hangers the opposite way when you've used them so you can visually see the clothing you've used. At the end of the season what you don't use you can easily get rid of.



Putting things in boxes

Put everything you own in boxes and only take out things you need for a month. And after that month, you get rid of what is left in the boxes that you didn't take out. Though extreme, it could be an effective method.



Write down everything you have

Count out what you have and write it all down. Once you realize how much you have, it's overwhelming to think about and can help you figure out what areas to tackle first.



Think of five outfits

When shopping in fast fashion stores, "If I'm unsure of if I want to buy something is to think of five outfits you can wear with it right now and if you can't think of one don't buy it," said McGuinness.

IMAGES COURTESY OF THE NOUN PROJECT

Hanger by Tim Neumann, box by Nicholas Menghini, pen and paper by Gleb Khorunzhiy, hand by Bluetip Design.

Tale of two voters

First timers navigate super Tuesday



PHOTO BY LUKE DIEHL

Caleb Lothian, '17 voted in his hometown of Franklin, VT on Tuesday, March 1.

By Luke Diehl
Staff Writer

From socialism to cyber security to sexist slanders, the 2016 presidential election season is nothing short of sensational. As the primaries tick by, and the field of candidates tapers, voters from 12 states went to the booth on Super Tuesday after sifting through information from countless news articles, debates, and advertisements to help them decide which box they would check off on their ballot. Among the millions of Americans casting their vote on Tuesday were two first-time voters from St. Michael's.

"I'm not too big into politics, but as a Vermonter, I wanted to support someone who cares about the state as much as I do," said Caleb Lothian, '17, as he

explained why he voted for Senator Bernie Sanders in Vermont's primary on Tuesday.

Like many of his generation, Lothian says he gets most of his election news from CNN and New York Times apps on his phone, watches debates when he can, and occasionally discusses the topics with friends. This is the first primary election he was eligible to cast his vote in, but he did participate in the 2012 presidential election and in Vermont's gubernatorial election in 2014.

Lothian values voting and wants to get in the habit of voting in as many elections as he can, but going into this last election, he said, "I have been told that my vote does not count for very much here in the state of Vermont, due to the fact that [Sanders] is probably go-

ing to win by a landslide in Vermont."

"Participation in a democratic politics is a civic duty, but the problem is people don't think their vote counts very much," said John Hughes, professor of political science. "[People] think theirs is one of thousands, so they assume they can sit it out with a low cost."

Hughes described the 1981 mayoral election of Burlington, in which Bernie Sanders beat incumbent Gordon Paquette by a mere ten votes. "The problem is even if one vote doesn't count for very much, in aggregate it can mean a great deal," Hughes said.

Shandon Kelleher, '17, is a first time primary voter as well. She registered in Massachusetts when she renewed her driver's license and began following the election last summer to ensure she would

be able to voice an informed opinion in the upcoming elections.

"Knowing and understanding who is in charge of our government is important," said Kelleher, who actively pursues her interests in history and politics. She watches the debates when she can, reads articles from a variety of sources, and discusses the topics with her peers.

Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina have already held their contests. Results from these votes show Trump holding victories in New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Nevada, while Cruz won the majority of the Republican votes in Iowa's caucus. Results from the democratic votes have been very close, however Clinton was victorious in Iowa, Nevada, and South

SEE TALE, PAGE 10

COLLEGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Once you've cleaned out your closet, it is important to actively manage what you put in it.

Buy what you need, not what you want

You can save money if you avoid buying multiple items that are essentially the same. "Some people go to Forever 21, buy a bunch of crappy clothes, and end up with a ton of clothes that are all the same and aren't great quality," McGovern said. "It's hard because we always want the newest thing, but it becomes easier as you get in the habit of saying you don't need items because you already have something similar."

Look at the investment in every item

If you decide to save up your money, you could in return choose to buy higher quality items which usually cost more. With nicer quality, they will last longer and reduce your need to constantly buy more clothing to replace it. "I have a family member who lives in France and she says that wealthy French women will never own more than four pairs of shoes. They'll buy really nice

shoes and they'll have certain ones for different occasion and that's all they need. Whereas for me, I have shoes strewn across the bottom of my closet and I can't find the pairs. I definitely don't need all of them," said McGuinness.

The more things you have, the more time you spend caring for things

Every item you choose to bring into your room grows in value as time passes. If you can clear out the clutter and stick to keeping only what you need and love, you won't have as much stress over getting rid of items later on. "For me, if I am stressed I won't clean my room for a while when I'm busy and that adds to my stress. So when I clean my closet, either getting rid of stuff or folding my sweaters and organizing my shoes I feel a lot better. People want to get rid of the winter blues and start new," said McGuinness.

See what you have used at the end of each season

It's hard to know in the winter what clothes you'll continue to use in the spring. McGovern suggests a couple different ways that you can look at what you are using each season so that you



PHOTO BY KATHRYN MIYAHIRA

McGovern's immaculate room has little out-of-place

can sort through what you do and don't use, (see "A Clean Sweep" pg. 8).

Your car may be your closet too

People often use cars to throw clothing, bags, and blankets into. Though it is good to be prepared, your car may be a place to start your spring cleaning.

McGuinness' main tip for next year is, "be more mindful of what you buy throughout the year and really think, 'Am I really going to wear this? Is it really worth my money?' As college students what we can really do instead of pouring our money into the

fast fashion industry is to only pour a little bit." For McGovern, she used books and videos on YouTube for inspiration and motivation. "Once I did it, I really appreciated not having a lot of stuff," said McGovern. "Everything is simplified. The things that I do have I know I love and have use for. It's helped me stop wasting money on clothing. I'm not saying that decluttering will miraculously help you figure life out. However, taking the time to consciously choose what things I have in my life has helped me to know myself better."

TALE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Carolina, and Sanders won the New Hampshire primary.

These statistics have set a precedent for how voters across the nation think about choosing their candidate. Super Tuesday, or March 1, shapes how campaigns will move forward because it includes voting results for 12 states decide which candidate best represents their hopes for the future of the nation.

Registered as an absentee voter for Mass., Kelleher received her ballot for the primaries in the mail, filled it out, and sent it back in last week. She says she decided to vote for Hillary Clinton because, "I think that, while most of the candidates are jokes, she is the most moderate." She has scheduled for a second ballot to be sent to her here for the November election.

Lothian, on the other hand, walked into his old elementary school, Franklin Center School in his hometown of Franklin, Vt. Immediately upon entering the gymnasium, his nostrils filled with the familiar smell of #2 pencils and

stale socks. After being greeted by two family-friends who were working the sign-in desk, he was given a ballot and directed to the voting area. "It is always an interesting feeling, thinking I have input on the future of our nation," he said after casting his ballot.

Results of the Super Tuesday votes revealed Trump leads the Republicans

Sanders was victorious in Colorado, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Vermont.

"Basically people like Trump for his blunt candor," Kelleher said after hearing these results. "People like Bernie because he speaks to the most economically vulnerable people -- those in the middle class and soon to be college graduates."

"Trump's likely nomination may cause

Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Vermont, and Virginia. Cruz won Oklahoma and Texas, and Rubio won Minnesota. Clinton won Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia whereas, Sanders was victorious in Colorado, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Vermont.

"Basically people like Trump for his blunt candor," Kelleher said after hearing these results. "People like Bernie because he speaks to the most economically vulnerable people -- those in the middle class and soon to be college graduates."

"Trump's likely nomination may cause many unwanted problems for the United States ... I can't say I'm too excited about Hillary being in the lead, a lot of sketchy behavior has come out of her campaign and that is not something I want to support," Lothian said in response to the Super Tuesday results.

Inspired by her role in the democratic process, Kelleher said, "Take a political science class to see how government works. Don't assume you know because you'd be surprised how much there is to learn. Trump took the republican vote in

"The problem is even if one vote doesn't count for very much, in aggregate it can mean a great deal."

**-John Hughes,
professor of political science**

with 258 delegates, followed by Cruz, Rubio, Kasich, and Carson with 110, 70, 23, and 8 delegates respectively, according to the Associated Press. Clinton holds 984 delegates leading Sanders, who has 347.

Trump took the republican vote in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Vermont, and Virginia. Cruz won Oklahoma and Texas, and Rubio won Minnesota. Clinton won Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia whereas,

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PHOTO BY YUCHENG MOU

Yijia Zhang, '18, and Sixiang Chen, '19, ignite a lantern during a windy ignition ceremony on the 300s field at St. Michael's College February 12.

Chinese Lunar New Year

A bittersweet time for international students

By Yucheng Mou

Sports Editor & Staff Photographer

"Mum! I'm going to shoot off some firecrackers and do some fireworks with my friends now!"

"Come back for the delicious food that your grandpa and grandma are making when you are done," my mum said.

As a kid, one of the most exciting things about celebrating Chinese Lunar New Year was setting off fireworks with my neighbors. It's not uncommon to see a group of boys and a couple girls making a circle on the street and pressing lighters. During the daytime, we set off the firecrackers to raise excitement in our community, but when it got darker, every child changed to fireworks to release color into the sky.

Before I came to the U.S, I did not know that people in western countries referred to this holiday as Chinese Lunar New Year. In China we call this holiday "the Spring Festival," and pronounce it

"Chun Jie" in Mandarin. The largest and the most important holiday in China, Chun Jie symbolizes solidarity, prosperous life, and hope for each family.

Many people who chose to leave their villages and go to big cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen or Guangzhou to work really hard for a better job and life seldom go back to their place of birth, but they would spare no efforts to go back home during Chun Jie because it is the best time to show their respects to family and tell them that they earned a lot of money and a better life. Many Chinese students in this country wish deeply that they could take the time to join them. For most of us, the Lunar Year is much more important than the regular New Year or other holidays.

The Spring Festival occurs on a different date every year due to the varying lunar calendar. This year it took place on

SEE LUNAR, PAGE 12

Lucky red envelope



In ancient China, parents did not want evils to scare their children while they were sleeping, so they always put a copper coin on their bed to keep the evils away. Today, the first thing children ask from their parents when they wake up on Chun Jie morning is for the "lucky red envelopes" which contain a lot of cash from parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts.

How much lucky money the children get sometimes depends on the family's social status. Some wealthy parents would give their child \$2000 and \$1000 to their nephews and nieces in one lucky envelope. In many families, the money increases as the children grow. The average luck money that Chinese children receive in Shanghai during the holiday season is about \$850 according eastday.com.

LUNAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Feb. 8. A week before, "the Little Spring Festival" begins, when people start to clean every corner in their home, decorate and buy new clothes.

As the only child in my family, I had to help my family clean the house, go shopping with my mum and celebrate the Special Festival with my parents and grandparents. If I refused, I would be considered an inconsiderate child. On the eve of Chun Jie, my family visits the home of my paternal grandparents to celebrate with our extended family. Each family has different preferences, but dumplings always appear on the dinner table.

After we finished our dinner, everyone sits together and watches CCTV (China Central Television) New Year's Gala (the most watched television show in the world), as 500-800 million other people watch it at same time around the world.

Another big tradition during that night is the fireworks. Yet the New Year's Gala has not finished, everyone brings a lighter and carries all of the fireworks they have outside to set off. We believe ring out the Old Year and ring in the New Year is very necessary. We believe the noise can scare the evils away and we do not want evils to stay with us for the new year. Fireworks also bring joy and good luck to people in the new year. The Spring Festival usually lasts 15-days. On the second day every family visits the



PHOTO BY YUCHENG MOU

Hua Fang, '17 and Weihan Luo, '17, prepare hotpot for celebrating the Chinese Lunar Year in Cashman Hall Feb 13.

child's grandparents from the maternal side.

Now, I am 22 years-old, and these traditions seem further and further away from me because I chose to study abroad in the U.S. This year when my family members were celebrating the Lunar New Year, I was writing a paper and preparing for exams. I avoided calling home on Lunar New Year's eve, not because I was

too busy working on my assignments, but because my grandma misses me so much and she cries when she hears my voice. The next day, my mum sent me a picture of the lucky red envelope that my grandma had prepared for me.

For some 300,000 Chinese students studying in the U.S, missing the celebration of the Spring Festival is heartbreaking. Because this is a meaningful holiday for the family, a time for every Chinese person to release the pressure from their jobs and share happiness. No one's face would show a little annoyance if they had the time to visit with family.

Jian Kang, '18, an economics major, is from southern China, and in his second year studying in the U.S. The only thing he wants for Chinese Lunar New Year, he said, is a reunion with his family. "Last year was my first year to miss the Spring Festival in 23 years," Kang said. "It used to be the happiest day of the year for me, but now the celebration of Chinese Lunar New Year became a moment that I miss my family."

He is not alone in feeling that way.

"Before I came to the U.S, I did not know what it felt like to miss the Spring Festival. But after two years of missing it in the U.S, I felt too oppressive and I real-

ly missed my family," Sixiang Chen, '19, said, almost crying. "During my third year of high school in the U.S, I could not endure anymore, and I went to the headmaster and asked for a 10-day break for all of the Chinese students. I told them that the Spring Festival is a really, really, really huge holiday in China. It's same as Christmas in the U.S." The headmaster agreed with Chen's suggestions and also approved the Chinese Lunar New Year into the school's calendar.

After studying in the U.S for almost six years, I finally realized going back home and celebrating the Spring Festival with parents and grandparents means much more than going back home for summer. We care about this more than any other things while we are studying in the other country.

Sometimes, I even consider giving up my GPA to exchange a week off for just going back to say "Guo Nian Hao/ Happy New Year" to my family. As an International student, who is also the only child in my family, missing the celebration of the Spring Festival is not about the lucky red envelope, setting off the fireworks, or the new clothes anymore. Nothing would compare to a short moment of reunion with family.

Spring Gridlock



It's not easy to make the journey home for Spring Festival. In fact, college students who must travel home suffer through Chunyun, which means "Spring Festival season traffic." This phenomenon usually begins weeks before Lunar New Year and ends one month later. According

to CNN, it was projected that 2.9 billion trips would be made during Chunyun in 2016. We usually make a joke about Chunyun and call it is the biggest periodical migration for humans around the world. Yet everyone suffers it with joy because they are truly eager to go back home.

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF NOUN PROJECT



"I Like St. Mike's," I think?

When you were first deciding where to spend the next four years of your life you probably watched that video in which a group of cheerful students sitting on a blanket in the quad said, "I Like St. Mike's." As you made your way into Alliot Hall for your first breakfast as a college student you likely saw the purple brochures that shout, "I Like St. Mike's." And perhaps after your roommate found out she'll be able to host a radio show, volunteer with MOVE, and still have time to study for her Econ exam, she casually mentioned, "I Like St. Mike's."

There's no doubt about it, the happy community that St. Michael's markets proves one of the biggest lures to the college. After arriving on campus, you notice that recognizable faces occupy almost every table in Alliot. Looking to join a new club? Turns out your neighbor across the hall is its president. In your classes, professors are always willing to strike up a conversation to get to know you better. Many students "like" St. Michael's and there's a niche for almost everyone. But what about the others?

On February 11, Mohammed Al-Kharsan, a 25-year-old graduate student from Baghdad, Iraq, was found deceased in his Senior Hall room. Al-Kharsan was spoken highly of by his professors. He was said to be quiet, yet bright. Private, but sensitive. The community reeled, but few members could say that they knew Al-Kharsan. Did he "like St. Mike's" — as our advertising suggests all students do? More importantly, did he feel like a member of the community?

Due to the demands of college life, it can be easy to forget that being a member of a community is not a passive role. Making a mental planner in your head, you may accidentally glare at a person passing by, or stare at your shoes. Guilty of this habit myself, I wonder, "Did I ever do this to Al-Kharsan?" I know that looking at your feet in passing does not deny the fact that St. Michael's has a community, but what remains to be addressed is



ILLUSTRATION BY NICHOLAS VERDIRAME

whether everyone on this campus feels included.

Perhaps Al-Kharsan did feel like a member of the community, and he liked St. Michael's every bit as much as the smiling group in the brochure. But if he didn't, he wouldn't be alone in feeling that way. Last semester, we explored how some first generation students feel overlooked by their peers, because many people assume that everyone's parents have gone to college. In this issue, we find that international students can feel a rift between themselves and the rest of the community, particularly when absent from largely celebrated holidays at home that receive little attention here. During MLK Week, we heard firsthand accounts from students of color who feel subtle racism from some of the largely white population, a number of whom deny that white privilege exists.

Have we been working hard enough to say that a true community exists here, at St. Michael's? If your first instinct is to say "yes," I invite you to ask yourself: can a true community exist if the majority of its members do not know that some international students live across Rte. 15 in Senior Hall? Or if a percentage of the population denies that white privilege ex-

ists? The "I Like St. Mike's" mindset may be true for many of you, but why? Is it really because of the community here, or is it because you aren't among one of the numerous members of our student body who feels distanced from others, discriminated against by peers, or differentiated from the population? We cannot take for granted the notion of a "close-knit community." Like getting an A, scoring a goal, or creating a project, it takes hard work.

We cannot continue to passively claim the existence of our community without engaging in it. In mourning the loss of Al-Kharsan, we should not have to wonder about whether he felt included in the community, but feel confident saying that he did. St. Michael's may be a special place for most, but by becoming active members in the community, we have the potential to make our home accepting and welcoming to all. The worst we can do is be indifferent to our commonalities and dismissive about our differences. We all have a responsibility to each other, and from the moment you step foot on campus, it is time to embrace that role.

KARIANNE SHETTER
PRINT EXECUTIVE EDITOR

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the voice of St. Michael's College, strive to create high quality journalism collected on a foundation of integrity. We represent the pulse of our campus by facilitating a forum for informative, enlightening and thought-provoking conversation. Through in-depth reporting, accurate storytelling and exceptional visuals, The Defender aims to professionally and ethically deliver the truth to our diverse audience.

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State of the campus:

By Rob Litchfield,
Karianne Shetter,
and Anna Ste. Marie

A video of a perplexed baby begrudgingly swallowing a spoonful of green mush found its way to the Facebook newsfeed of hundreds of St. Michael's students on Friday, Feb. 12. Shannon McQueen, '16, Student Association (SA) president, captioned the farcical video with a simple message: "How I feel when the administration of SMC continues to make bad, large-encompassing decisions (that affect students) without consulting them." The post was soon inundated with responses — 19 comments and 98 likes as of Sunday, a majority of which came from students and alumni.

McQueen was reacting to the differential residential pricing structure, a recent housing decision made by St. Michael's administration, in which the current arrangement — a single fee for all housing across campus — will change dramatically to a tiered fee with the 2016-17 academic year. As McQueen wrote in her Facebook post, "They changed the price for the housing structure, so depending on what building you live in, you pay a different amount."

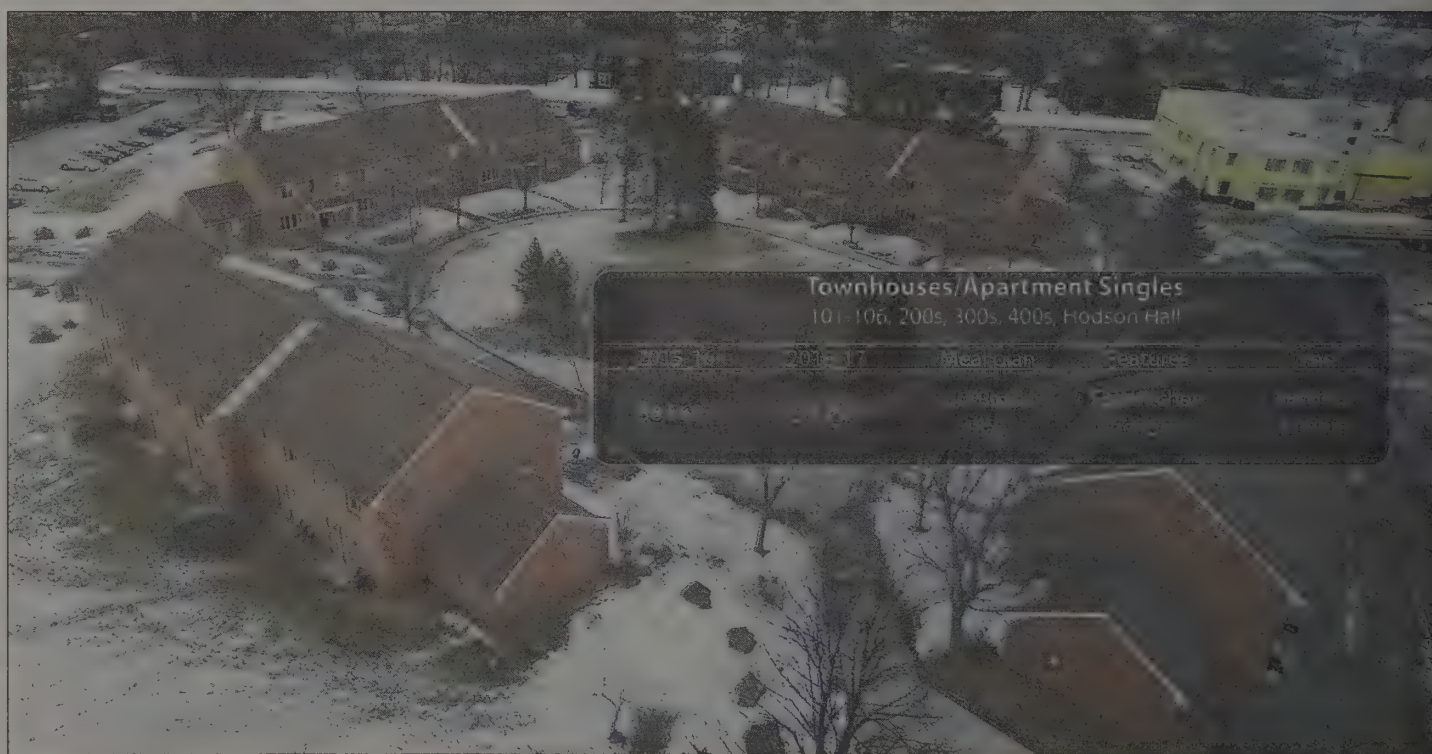
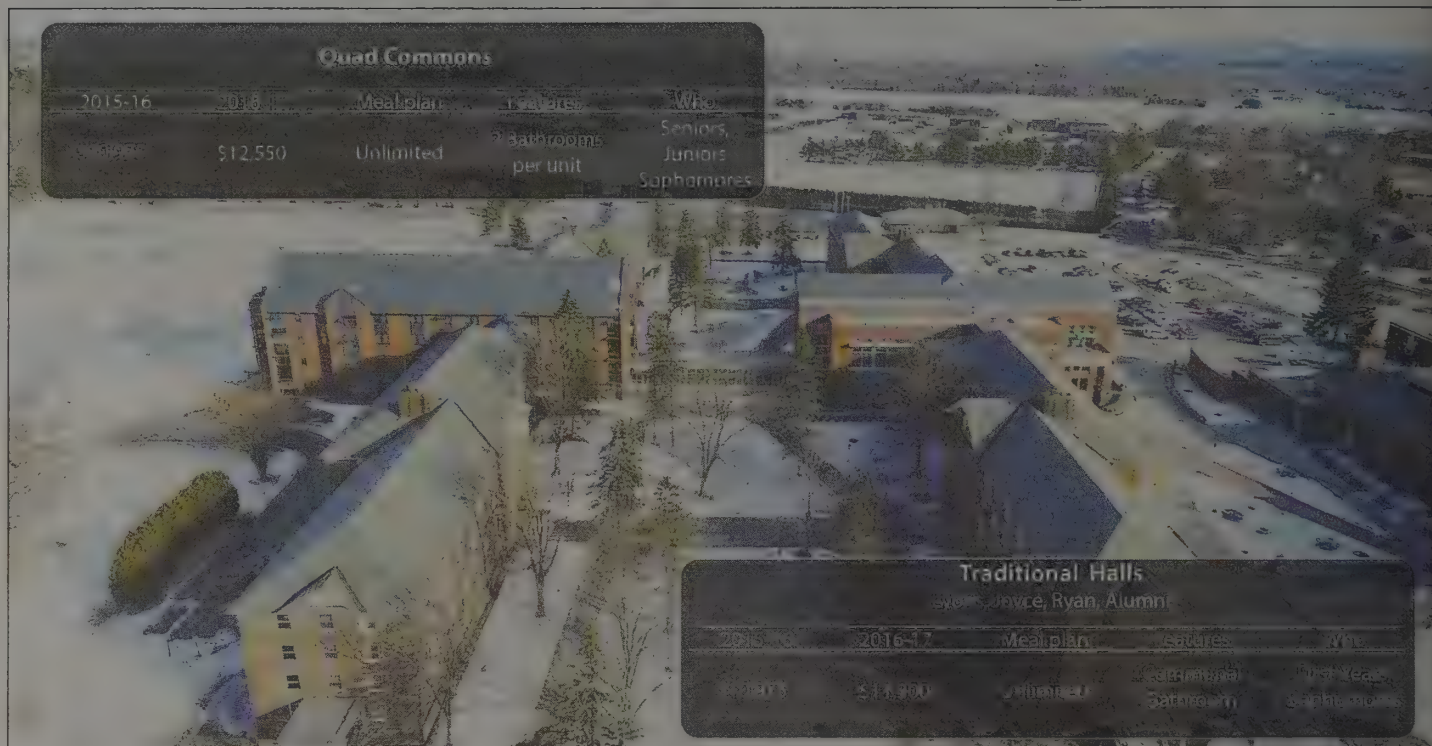
Of paramount concern to her and the executive board of the SA is the possibility that this new structure may segregate campus based on the financial status of students, McQueen said in an interview. "We don't want there to be a rich kid's dorm and a poor kid's dorm."

Until an official email from the office of the vice president of finance detailing the new policy was released a week later, this social media post and ensuing digital dialogue were many students' only entry point into a campus-wide conversation about inclusion, transparency, and most importantly, the future of on-campus housing.

Why now?

"When we broke ground on the new residence hall, it seemed like it was time to really look at the equity of our current pricing structure," said Sarah Kelly, vice president of enrollment and a member of the President's Cabinet. The current structure, in which all students pay the same price for housing regardless of living area, has been in place since the college was established in 1904.

Up until the end of this academic year, all students living in a dormitory-style building with an unlimited meal plan paid \$10,975 for room and board.



“We don’t want there to be a rich kid’s dorm and a poor kid’s dorm.”

-Shannon McQueen, '16

Students living in an apartment-style residence with a 40-block meal plan (40 meals per semester) paid \$8,560.

Under the new policy, which takes effect for all students in the fall 2016 semester, the price in housing will vary by as much as \$3,850 depending on the amenities of the building they are living in and which meal plan accompanies their living area. At the bottom of this scale are apart-

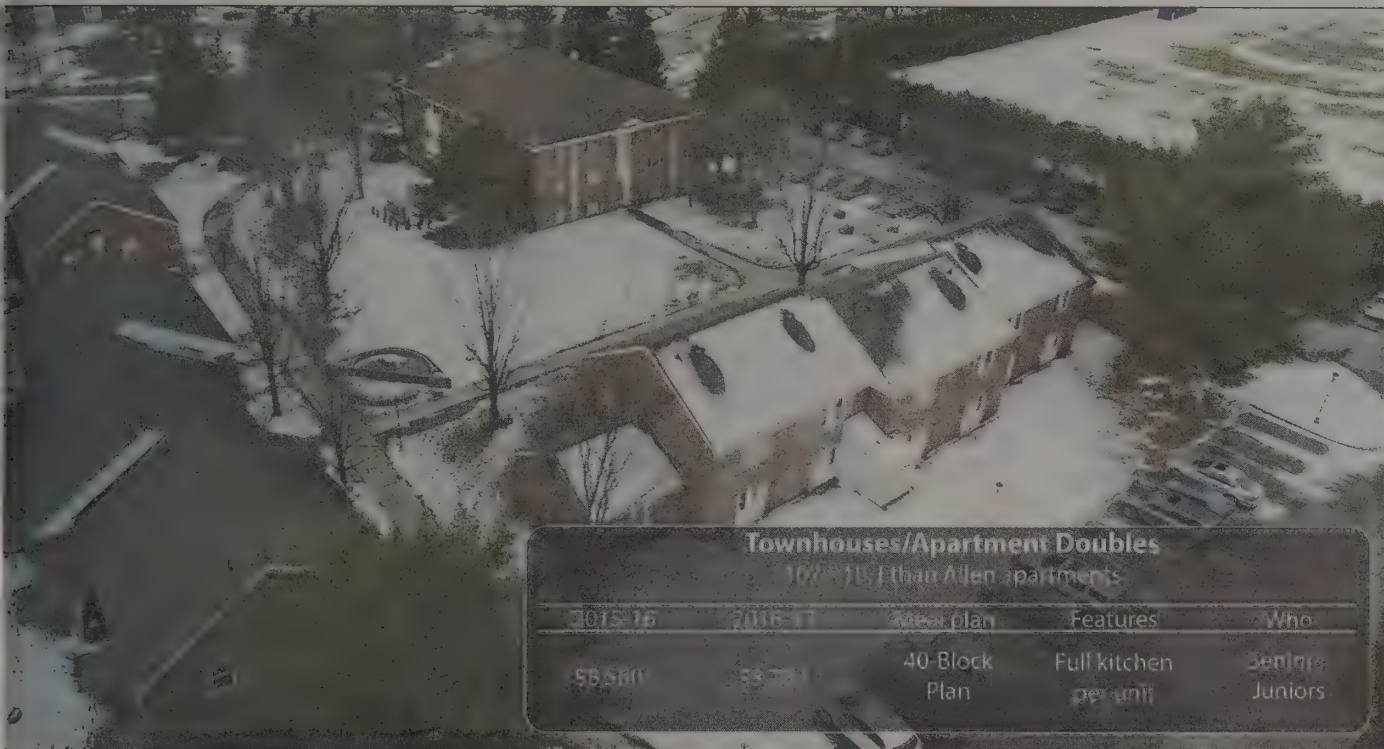
ments or townhouses with double rooms and a 40-block meal plan, which will cost \$8,700 per year. At the top of this scale is the Quad Commons residence hall, which features single rooms, private bathrooms, and an unlimited meal plan, for \$12,550 per year (for complete information, see photos and graphics above).

"We've been talking about this for years because we thought the current system is

unjust, but of course, the spin some people put on it is that the new system is also unjust," St. Michael's President Jack Neuhauser said during a recent interview in his office. "Basically, we felt it was unfair for people in the quad to be subsidizing really nice [living] quarters elsewhere."

According to Kelly, "Our goal was to make sure that we don't break up friend groups, that we meet demonstrated financial need keeping in mind that we are right-ing a very old structural wrong." This new policy is based on the belief that it is unfair for students living in old, basic residence areas to be paying the same amount as another student living

Housing at the crossroads of budget and inclusion



PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS BY SETH BOUDREAU



Student Association backlash

To the executive board of the SA, the lack of student input and transparency in the decision making process is equally as important as the details of the new pricing plan. "We did not know that this was happening until after the decision was made," McQueen said. "Yet, this decision has been made and will be implemented next year. There was absolutely no transparency that this was even being put on the table."

At an emergency SA meeting held on Sunday, Feb. 15, the executive board of the SA wrote a letter to the President, his cabinet, and the Financial Planning Office condemning the new policy and requesting a compromise (see page 16).

McQueen shared the letter publicly in a Facebook post, which received 173 likes and 46 shares, as of Sunday. The letter addressed concerns dealing with transparency in administrative decision-making and gentrification of the college due to a class divide (for detailed information on the contents of the letter, see sidebar on page 16).

McQueen said that the response to the letter was defensive. "The SA assumed we hadn't thought about the segregation aspect," Kelly said.

"The president's cabinet felt attacked and thought we were not representing the decision as the whole," McQueen said, referencing a meeting she had with select members of the executive board of the SA and the president's cabinet.

"We were told that we don't have our facts straight and students are making a lot of rash statements based on misinformation," said Meghan Diffenderfer, secretary for communication for the SA.

"In their mind they have different [safeguards] in place to prevent strong gentrification," McQueen said. "I'm still very unclear about what they're doing to prevent a divide."

Additionally, the letter called for the administration to take the SA's concerns into consideration by making two amendments to the policy. First, they asked for the abolishment of the on-campus housing policy. According to a *Defender* article published in Sept. 2005, students were allowed to live off-campus until 2005; the article indicated that the administration had frowned upon off-campus housing since the 1970's.

Secondly, they asked for a grandfather clause that would allow for current students to maintain the old pricing

“Basically, we felt it was unfair for people in the quad to be subsidizing really nice [living] quarters elsewhere.”

-Jack Neuhauser, president of St. Michael's

At St. Anselm in New Hampshire, another college the cabinet examined, a standard double room, which includes a meal plan, costs \$13,334 per year. For a standard single room, which includes a meal plan, the cost per year is \$14,544. For an apartment-style residence, the cost per year is \$11,118 and does not

include a meal plan.

Kelly added that all of the housing stock on campus could never be renovated to the level of the new residence hall, currently named Residence Hall #4, which will provide campus with 186 'premium beds,' therefore, other measures to bring equality to campus housing needed to be taken.

in newly-constructed, highly-modernized dorms. "This is putting us more in line with industry standards, and it gives the student body a choice in where they want to live and what they want to pay for," Kelly said.

During the decision process, Kelly said the cabinet consulted schools of similar size and makeup to determine whether this pricing structure has been effective elsewhere. Emmanuel College in Boston, charges different prices based on how many people are sharing a living space. For a double occupancy room, the residence fee is \$13,920; for a triple occupancy room, the fee is \$11,420.

HOUSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

structure, "under the terms to which they agreed to when they enrolled."

Both compromises were rejected. The first was rejected out of safety concerns, involving both physical and mental health, for students living off campus. The second was rejected because of the logistical difficulty of managing an array of pricing differences in their information management system, according to Kelly.

The students' questions are more or less, 'How can I get into the best, or most expensive, housing?' Says a lot about students, doesn't it?"

"There's no easy way to make the change," she said. "You just have to rip off the band-aid."

Allison Sherman is the assistant director for alumni and parent relations, and an alum from the class of '05 who was affected by the change in the off-campus housing policy that year. Despite memories of the housing pinch caused by the '05 policy, Sherman remains an on-campus advocate, regardless of the price tag, saying students have, "the rest of their lives to live off-campus." As for the differential residential pricing structure, Sherman said, "You're learning how to be an adult."

"As an adult, unfortunately you often live where you can afford, and that's life. When you graduate you will have to make that decision. You have to seriously examine your income and savings to figure out where you can afford to live, so it is a real-life question that you'll have to answer someday," Sherman said.

The official announcement

On Friday, Feb. 19 at 6:16 p.m., exactly one week after the original Facebook posting from McQueen, the Office of the Vice President of Finance sent out an email detailing the policy change and addressed the concern among some students about how the change will impact them financially as well as interpersonally. This was the first formal communication from the college to students regarding the policy change. The email was sent just a week prior to housing opt-in, the window of time in which students are able to determine which housing process or living-area selection process, they will participate in.

In the email, Vice President of Finance and Treasurer Neal Robinson wrote, "The overall price increase comes at a time when we have made significant investments in residential infrastructure to better serve our students; the change in pricing struc-

ture was implemented not only to better align with housing practices within higher education, but to provide what we believe is a more equitable system."

Robinson also noted that the new residential costs are still "on par, if not lower than average" than housing costs in the local market at other colleges.

Student reactions

Despite the change in pricing structure, some rising seniors -- most of which will only see a slight raise in residential costs -- expressed indifference. "I think it's fair," said Amy Haggerty, '17. "If you

live in Alumni, you shouldn't be paying as someone who lives in the 400's."

Haggerty explained that she and her friends are aiming to acquire a four-person townhouse next year, preferably in the 200's. "I really don't think this [new housing structure] will affect where I live next year," she said. "My roommates and I are all pretty much set on where we want to live." The price for a 200's series townhouse will be \$9,450.

Lucas Margenot, '17, is aiming for a single in Quad Commons, an area on campus that will be experiencing a large increase in pricing and cost Margenot \$12,550. "This new housing structure does not affect me," he said. "I would be overjoyed if I got in."

Some international students also have shown indifference to the change. Pun Sanitwannakul, '18, an international student from Thailand, currently lives in Cashman Hall. Next year, he intends on getting a single in Quad Commons. "I don't care about the prices at all," he said.

Zoe D'Olimpio, '18, a rising junior, had the opposite reaction. D'Olimpio said "I have done a lot of thinking about it and discussed it with my parents. I started looking at options for next year that I probably wouldn't have looked at if there weren't any price changes. We discussed living off-campus or changing my meal plan."

Many rising sophomores, however, are feeling more angry, as they are the demographic that will be most affected. Assistant Director of Student Life Brian Lee presented an information session in McCarthy on Tuesday, Feb. 23 to nearly 300 current first-year students.

"Any time there are changes in prices, it's concerning," said Kevin Hutchins, '19. "This is not what I expected coming to St. Mike's," Hutchins said after the information session. "I think money will be an important factor in where I will be living. In terms of trying to live with my

friends, I can see it being a possible issue."

"I heard about it on my class' Facebook page and then a lot of people got angry and shared it from there," said Caroline Hart, '19. "I have to pay a portion of my own tuition so I'll be thinking a lot more about the logistics and about sacrificing amenities."

Phil Dowd, '19, said, "I heard about it through a friend and didn't believe it so I checked the website. It's not even worth it to be on campus anymore for rooms that aren't really that great. I'm going to look for one of the less expensive options."

The differential residential pricing changes were the last topic discussed

administration's decision to change the housing structure. "We have been told repeatedly that this is not an area that students in the past have been involved in and they make these decisions on their own separate from students," said McQueen. She questions why student input has never been considered during the yearly budgeting process.

However, the administration does not feel that they are lacking in transparency. "We have made no secrets of budget challenges, like every small liberal arts college," Kelly said. "We've been pretty upfront."

On Friday, Feb. 12, a budget review and forecast meeting presenting the college's tentative financial plan for 2017-2021 was offered to faculty and staff by President Neuhauser, Vice President of Finance Neal Robinson, and Director of Business Services, Rob Robinson. While the meeting was directed towards faculty and staff, a few members of the executive board, including McQueen and Diffenderfer, were invited by Rob Robinson to attend the presentation when they met with him earlier in the day.

The following Friday, Feb. 19, a repeat of the budget review and forecast meeting was to be held, should at least 20 faculty and staff members have RSVPed by Thursday, Feb. 18. When students, who were also interested in hearing the budget, signed up to attend,

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 17

-Jack Neuhauser

during Lee's 45 minute presentation. "If you have questions about the fees, please direct them to the finance office," he said. "They don't have an endless pot of money, but they are willing to work with you."

Lee added, "The college probably could have communicated [the pricing change] a little bit better, but it is what it is."

Communication tensions

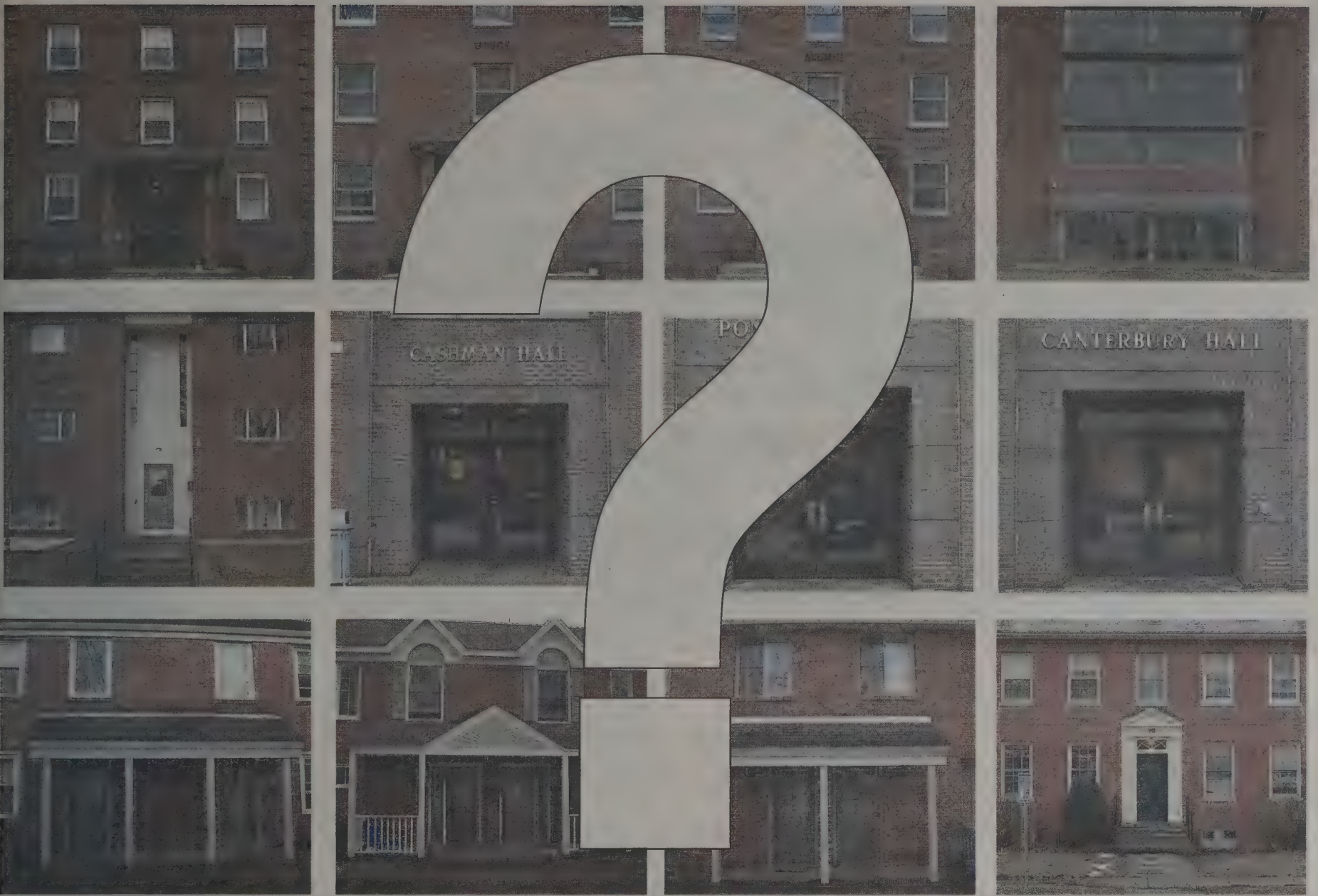
According to McQueen, lack of communication and student input has been a theme during her two years serving on the SA. No students were involved in the

Letter from the SA Addressed to the President, his cabinet, and the Financial Planning Office

"After learning about the new housing cost breakdown the Executive Board of the Saint Michael's College Student Association feels that it is imperative that a representative of the President's Office or Financial Planning present detailed and transparent information about the new policy to the Student Association Senate so that the students of Saint Michael's College are informed about decisions that solely affect them.

We are deeply concerned with the Administration's failure to include student input in the decision making process of this new model. As student input was deemed unnecessary, we feel that a number of major issues will arise with the new Housing Program, the most severe of which is the clear and easily identifiable class divide that will occur from charging students based on the quality of living per area. By essentially gentrifying Saint Michael's College the administration is actively going against their own efforts to promote a more inclusive and diverse Saint Mike's. As Diversity Initiatives played a prominent role in the Financial Planning Presentation given to Faculty and Staff on February 12th, we were struck that the same thought and care was not given to the new Housing System. As it stands right now there are no safeguards in place to protect students from:

- Being subject to a classist system in which your living area indicates your socio-economic status.
- Being forced into a more expensive housing situation when the increased demand for cheaper housing causes these areas to fill more quickly. Without the ability to live off campus, students will be forced to live in areas in which they cannot afford.
- Being forced into a system of housing that was not outlined to them when they initially agreed to attend Saint Michael's College."



PHOTOS BY SETH BOUDREAU AND ANNA STE. MARIE

The differential housing structure that will be implemented in the Fall 2016 semester will result in a change in the price of every residential structure on campus to reflect the quality of the building.

HOUSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

they received an email on Thursday, Feb. 18 from Kristin Gehsmann, associate professor of education and moderator of the faculty assembly. "Thanks for your interest in the budget presentation tomorrow afternoon," she wrote. "Unfortunately this event is for Faculty and Staff only. I apologize for the confusion." The meeting the next day was never held.

Budget woes

In a private interview, Neuhauser addressed the problems many private institutions face when planning their budgets. "We're really the only country in the world that has this kind of private education," he said.

"It's illusory, because it seems to be less expensive to go to a public school, but it takes six years to graduate and you can't get courses. Look at the University of Massachusetts and how hard it is to get courses. So, it looks cheaper, but it may not be. And

we suffer a little bit, because we don't advertise or pretend — we're not a job place. It's not a place where you come here because you're going to be a machinist, or an airplane pilot, or something like that. That's just not who we are."

Neal Robinson said that he is currently anticipating a 3.3 percent in-

"Look at all of the services you receive that are not in the classroom and the res fee is paying for it," said Robinson. "For use of the Chittenden County Transit System, the bus service we provide to North Campus, the Friday night dry's, the programming, all of the hamburgers Lou DiMasi is cooking out in the quad or

I would tell them to go after the residential area that they want [to live in] and then make the school work for you."

Neuhauser said he does not believe the concerns raised by the SA in the Feb. 15 letter sent by McQueen, will divert people away from living in certain buildings. "I think we have plenty of evidence based on the questions we see so far from students that those aren't the kind of concerns we're getting at all. The questions are more or less, 'How can I get into the best, or most expensive, housing?' Says a lot about students, doesn't it?"

Discussion about a new housing structure began in October, when ground was broken on Residence Hall #4. Neuhauser said that the final decision was made in the first two weeks of January, but that if the situation were repeated, he would have preferred the decision to be made in November of 2015.

"We really should have communicated it much better than we did," said Neuhauser. "It's a management decision, but we should have had discussion."

"If [my children] were here, I would tell them to go after the residential area that they want, and then make the school work for you."

-Lou DiMasi, director of residence life

crease in tuition for the coming academic year, which follows the typical trajectory of annual tuition increases, and that this increase will be coupled with a three percent increase in the residence fee.

The change in the housing structure is one of the areas of the forecasted budget that will have the biggest impact on students returning to the college next fall. The residence fee includes more than room and board.

wherever he does it. There's a ton of stuff that has to be paid for out of the residence fee."

Lou DiMasi, director of residence life, said he thinks individual students can still live where they like, but they may need to work with the financial aid office to make it financially viable. "All five of my children have taken classes here, three have lived in the [residence] halls," said DiMasi. "If they were here [today],

Wage of resident assistants remains stagnant after housing costs rise



PHOTO COURTESY OF RESIDENCE LIFE

The St. Michael's Residence Life staff poses in front of the Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel in the beginning of the 2015-16 academic year. Sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible to apply to be an Residence Assistant (RA) or Apartment Community Advisor (ACA).

By Shaelyn Cavanaugh
Staff Writer

Manuela Yeboah, '17, wakes up at 6 a.m. every morning. After completing homework for five classes, taking time to connect with residents, and staying in the staff office on duty until midnight or later, she can expect to put at least 12 hours into her job as a Resident Assistant (RA).

Until now, Yeboah, along with all of the other RA's on campus, paid the same amount for housing. This coming year, with the implementation of differentiated housing fees, students who want the role of the RA will have to consider if they are willing to pay for the high-cost living areas before applying.

For Yeboah, who works in Alumni Hall, "RA's act as the bridge to everything on campus." Some current RA's question what happens if that bridge is weighed down by a socioeconomic divide.

New RA's at St. Michael's are compensated \$3,900 per year and returning RA's earn \$4,400, making up less than half of the current cost of room and board—\$10,975 per year with the full meal plan. However, there will be no change in salary based on residential area pricing for RA's next year, which means that some will be living in a \$12,550 living area, like Quad Commons, being paid less than a third of the cost of room and board.

The salary for an RA is approximately

twice the pay of a work study. Unlike a work study, however, most of the hours RA's spend doing their jobs is unquantifiable.

The salary for an RA is approximately twice the pay of a work study. Unlike a work study, however, most of the hours RA's spend doing their jobs is unquantifiable

fiable. After all, so much of the RA's job is simply being there for residents, said Nga Nguyen, '18, an RA in Joyce Hall.

The large personal rewards that come from being an RA, including developing close connections with residents and becoming more involved in the St. Michael's community, may be enough to offset the increased housing prices set for some living areas next academic year, as many current RA's have reapplied and are anticipating housing placements.

Lou DiMasi, director of residence life, addressed the Student Association on Tuesday, Feb. 23 regarding the change in price. "Over the years, [residence] life has listened to you," he said.

DiMasi said he is working to quell the fears RA's have expressed about reapplying in a system with differentiated housing prices by encouraging them to "make St. Michael's work for you." The financial and student life offices are willing to work with students to accommodate their needs, he said, "there is a huge commitment by the institution to work with students."

This means all student concerns will be dealt with on an individual, case-by-case basis. Still, DiMasi acknowledges

"We could have done a better job creating dialogue."

The problem that has surfaced lies within the communication between those who make the financial decisions and residence life. "It's important for us all to be on the same page so we can be on the same team," said Patton Massengill, resident director of Alumni Hall and a member of the RA hiring committee.

One of the main goals of the RA hiring committee this year was to focus on the population RA's would like to work with, rather than asking about housing area preference. However, because the committee was not informed about the residence fee changes, the application had to be modified later to include housing preference in order for RA's to be given a chance to be placed in an area they feel they can afford.

"You don't get a choice, you get a preference," said Yeboah of the application process. According to DiMasi, RA applicants have the ability to accept or decline their placements, and should consider if the job is right for them before applying.

One RA, who requested they not be named, fears students' perceptions of each other will be altered. The RA anticipates that the change in fees could potentially affect diversity in residence life, creating a housing system based on group, class, and position. Ultimately, qualified RA's may choose not to work in certain dorms because they cannot afford to, this source speculates.

DiMasi invites students to consider "Are you getting your money's worth?" In light of the recent changes to residence life, it is a more important question for St. Michael's RA's to answer than ever before.

What is an RA?

"RA's are undergraduate student staff members who have primary supervisory responsibilities for a wing or floor of an individual residence hall or for an apartment or suite living area.

RA's participate in an extensive interview process. They also participate in a week of training prior to the beginning of the school year and attend various trainings throughout the academic year.

Students are encouraged to get to know their RA as "first line" contacts for assistance, information, support, referrals and, in many cases, friendship. RA's are supervised by a Resident Director."

COURTESY OF RESIDENCE LIFE

Does race really matter?

This week, as Super Tuesday with all of its divisive rhetoric among presidential candidates took place and Chris Rock spotlighted the lack of diversity in the Academy Awards, we asked two students to add their voice to the public discussion of race and white privilege at St. Michael's College.



By **Manuela Yeboah**
Contributing Columnist

Does race matter? The fact that we are asking this question in 2016 points to America's skewed attitude towards race. Approximately 50 years ago, 200,000 Americans gathered in Washington, D.C., for a political rally for jobs and freedom to shed light on political and social issues. African Americans led a march across the country. This march was a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement. Since then, laws that once separated whites from everyone else, because of their superiority, were abolished. Fifty years ago isn't too far from where we are now. So why then do so many Americans, specifically white Americans, complain about discussing race?

During Martin Luther King week I heard a lot of students say "We are all humans—that's what we should focus on!"

"What's the point of the Convocation anyway?" "We need to have a color-blind society!"

How can we live in a society that is "color-blind" without embracing the fact that people are treated differently because of the color of their skin? Overt racism still occurs and hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan still exist. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The absence of brutality and unregenerate evil is not the presence of justice." Racism is still alive but it is much more subtle now than it was in the past.

I was born in Cologne, Germany. I moved to the United States when I was about 7 years old. My family and I now live in Newark, N.J., where half of the residents are either black or African American and the rest are Latino and white. I attended a predominantly Hispanic high school and a predominantly white dance school for ballet, tap, and jazz lessons. I honestly feel that the exposure I've had to different types of people has shaped my

view on race.

If you're reading this and you are white, think back to your elementary and high school experience. Did the people you interacted with on a daily basis look like you? Did you ever learn about the history of the slave trade, civil rights movement, or read black literature? Does the movie *ROOTS* ring a bell? Malcolm X? How about Zora Neale Hurston? Toni Morris-

son? If you are white and you did learn about all of this, did you learn about it all year or just in February because that was black history month?

Now think outside of an academic setting. Think about what you watch on television and the people on the covers of magazines. Have you ever thought to yourself: "Why don't I see people that look like me on TV or in magazines?"

As an African American woman, I find myself asking this question a lot. With America being a melting pot of a variety of people, how is it that only 14 percent of major magazines feature women of color? Growing up, I always saw white women and men on major magazines, commercials, winning Oscars, etc.

Attending St. Michael's has opened my eyes to the issue of race. White privilege reigns on this campus. White privilege refers to the societal privileges white people have. If race didn't matter, every single person in America would be successful. Unfortunately, that isn't the case! If someone is white, their skin color does not work against them in terms of how people perceive their financial responsibility, style of dress, public speaking skills, or job performance. They can also play the color-blind card, completely erasing centuries of discrimination and racial inequality because they weren't affected by slavery or the systematic oppression faced by people of color. It's easy to ignore

something that doesn't affect you.

For example, there are usually more limited opportunities for people who grow up in inner cities than those that grow up in the suburbs. The truth is we don't always end up in places because we deserve it or we earned it. The individualistic idea that each person can pull herself up by the bootstraps is an illusion.

Ninety percent of the students at St. Michael's are white. This is a statistic ignored by a lot of the students here on campus. Why can't we address the issue of race on our campus without feeling discomfort? Why did MLK week anger some people?

I know why: the anger some white students and faculty members harbored stems from realizing their own guilt and the discomfort that race does matter! This country has been in existence for centuries and only about 60 years have passed since people of color have had equal rights—race does matter. There are still schools that ignore the contributions of people of color and racism in this country—race does matter. Whites have 12 times the wealth of blacks—race does matter.

If race really didn't matter, I wouldn't be writing this column.

Manuela Yeboah is a junior Environmental Science major. She can be reached at myeboah@mail.smcvt.edu.



By **Jamie Dyer**
Contributing Columnist

Who are you? Society urges us to identify with categories such as white, black, Latino, and Asian - a racially focused way of thinking. Nationality wants you to identify as American, African, German, and so on, a more mixed way to think because it includes many people regardless of skin color. Then there is self-identification which urges you to identify based on your family roots/background. For example I am a mixture of Irish, Italian and Scottish descent.

Everyone has, at one point in their life, had to fill out a form that asks them to indicate their race, but I ask you this: does your race really describe who you are as a person? For me my race has nothing

to do with who I am. But because we are in such a race-obsessed society people are made to think that their race is who they are. If we keep seeing our fellow citizens as white, black, Latino or Asian we are only going to further divide the people of this country; even more than we already are. The nationality and self-identification way of thinking offer a far more mixed and inclusive way of thinking, opposed to society's racially focused approach. Race does not matter because here we are all Americans, we are all human beings and we all should not let the color of our skin determine who we are as people. It was Martin Luther King Jr. who said, "I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

During a student run panel last month titled "Does Race Really Matter?" I mainly took away that because we live in a racist society/system this is the reason people cannot earn enough money to afford things like healthcare, mental illness help, birth control access, educational opportunity, or even achieve success in general. The student organization speakers, who headed this panel, all seemed to have the same reoccurring theme throughout their presentations, that whites have more because they are born into situations that

give them greater access to certain resources or opportunities a "person of color" may not be able to access. Being a white male this made me rather uncomfortable because I have never had a sense of entitlement or belief that I have better access to things in society based on the color of my skin. The way I was brought up was that you worked hard for the things you wanted. The term "racism" is defined, by the Merriam-Webster dictionary as: the belief that some races of people are better than others. So when I hear terms such as "white privilege" or someone tells me that the society we live in is rigged for white people, or how privileged I am especially as a white male I feel obligated to point out just how racist that sounds.

I was taught that, in the world we live in, you work as hard as you can to get to the top and you can become whatever you want. Yes, I know that I am privileged, but my privilege has nothing to do with the color of my skin - My family has worked very hard to be where they are financially and I am blessed that they can provide me with things like healthcare, a vehicle, private school education, and the like. I hear people trying to enlighten me on this subject by saying that I do not understand my privilege and that ignoring that it exist is ludicrous. Those are some

of the people that are so racially focused and are only further dividing us. I do not understand why we cannot see ourselves as Americans and all be the United States of America, instead of the Divided States of America.

People need to understand that capitalism has nothing against race, religion, or sexual orientation. It is all about how much you are willing to work and sacrifice to be the best that you can be. I understand that there were injustices committed in this country that were clearly racist and inhumane but these are not the things that we need to constantly refer back to. America is one of the most diverse places on earth and you, my peers, are part of one of the most tolerable and understanding generations that this nation has ever seen.

In order for us to move on as a society we must look towards the future with optimism and not look at the injustices performed in the past with such aggression. Let us stop dividing ourselves based on the color of skin and instead unite as, "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Jamie Dyer is a sophomore Chemistry major. He can be reached at jdye2@mail.smcvt.edu.

Campus Events | March 3 - March 19

28	29	1	2	3 International Women's Day Luncheon 12:00pm Roy Room Amnesty Policy Open Forum 7:00pm Roy Room	4 Men's Discussion 5:00pm St. J. 118 French Film Festival 7:00pm Cherry 101	5 Mac and Cheese Bar 5:00pm Cherry 101 Gill 11:00pm Ryan & Alton
6	7 "The Little Queen" screening 7:00pm Cherry 111	8 History of Black Women's Initiative 4:30pm Farrell Room Guns and Greed 8:30pm McCarthy	9	10 Bijan College Lecture 12:00pm Farrell Room Housing Mixer 6:00pm Penney	11	12 Gill 11:00pm Ryan & Alton
13	14 African Film Series "Pelle" 6:00pm St. J. 102 Internship Information Meeting 6:00pm St. J. 101	15 Active Shooter Response 7:00pm Cherry 101	16 William Wilson Lecture 7:00pm McCarthy	17 French Film Festival "Timbuktu" 7:00pm Cherry 101	18 Math Teacher Leader Conference 8:00am Farrell Room Quebec Film "Toute C'est" 7:00pm Cherry 111	19

▶ Snow report: Online weekly update

Thinking about hitting the trails over the weekend? Check out The Defender Snow Report before heading out. Snow reports on Bolton Valley, Jay Peak, Killington, Smugglers' Notch, Stowe, and Sugarbush come out every Friday online. Our report includes the number of trails open, lifts open, base depth and snow conditions for each mountain.

Video by Seth Boudreau on defender.smcvt.edu

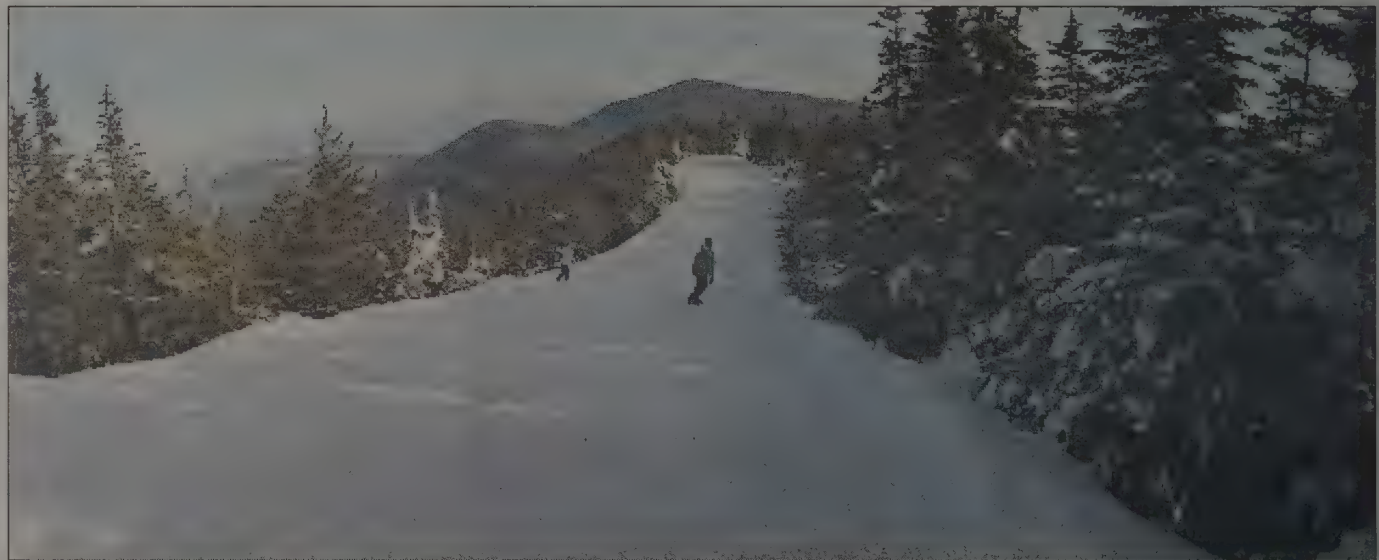
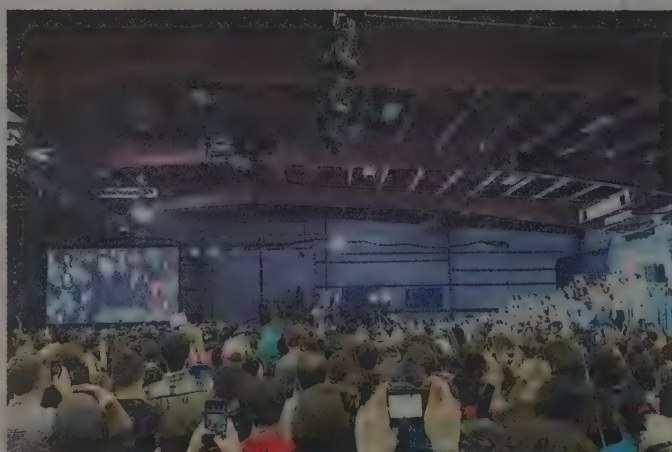
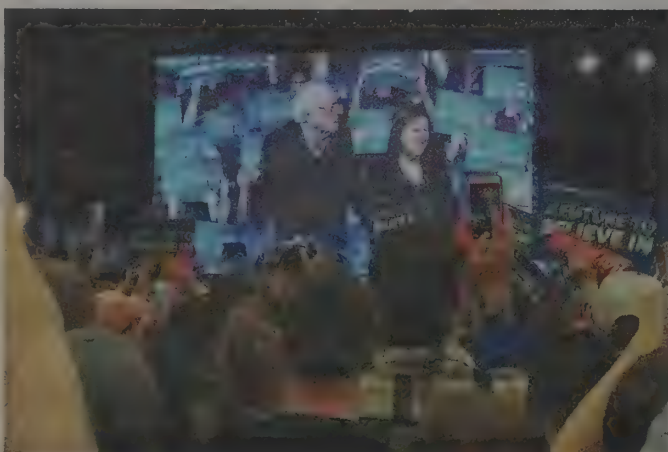


PHOTO BY SETH BOUDREAU

▶ Bernie returns home to rally



PHOTOS BY YUCHENG MOU

Thousands gathered at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction on the night of Super Tuesday in support of Sen. Bernie Sanders. This marked Sanders' first major campaign in Vermont since he announced his candidacy last May. Visit defender.smcvt.edu for an exclusive video of the rally.

Video by Yucheng Mou on defender.smcvt.edu

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#smcvt

Feb 25, 2016



We woke up to a new lake in our front yard #smcvt



candicekalil31

Feb 23, 2016



We encourage all to continue to live with their friends, not just base housing choices off of cost #smcvtsa #smcvt



@SMCVT_SA

Feb 14, 2016

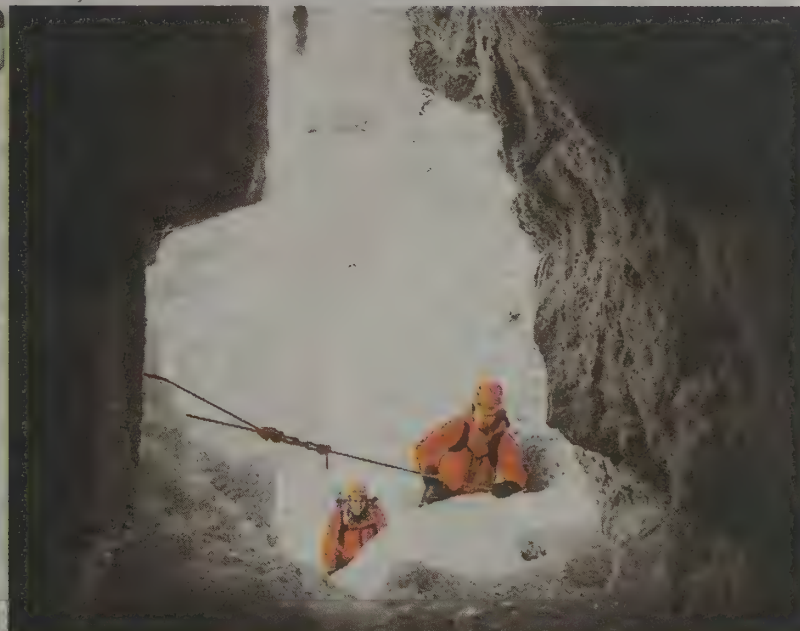


Having different pricing on houses will lead to gentrification, no doubt about it. And when people are divided by wealth, soon it'll lead to divisions by race, geography, etc. I didn't apply to a school divided into cliques, and I don't plan on being at one. #smcvt #SMCDivide



Sean Broderick

Feb 26, 2016



Mountaineering Easy Gully with the ITP program. #smcvt #everyoneswilderness #optoutside #reil440project



smcvtwp

Photos of the Week



PHOTO BY GREG BAKER

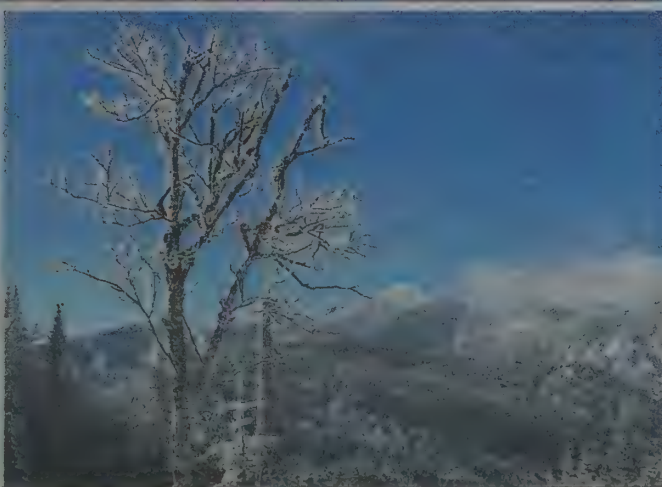


PHOTO BY FIONA GIGUERE

How to submit photos of the week

If you would like your photo to be featured in this section, post your photos to Twitter, Facebook or Instagram using

#SMCDefender



The evolutionary shift: feminism and the curriculum



By Cory Warren
Contributing Writer

Now more than ever, college campuses seem to be embracing proactive agendas addressing gender, race, and sexuality. Feminism in particular offers a unique entry point for the conversation about social concerns to emerge organically in the college classroom. The reason is simple: college classrooms today tend to consist mostly of women. But the question remains, does the core curriculum at Saint Michael's adequately address feminism?

Adrienne D'Elia, '16, draws a distinction between the Liberal Studies Curriculum (LSC) in place at most liberal arts colleges and specialized tracks at larger research institutions. Though she assumes a liberal arts campus would better address race, gender, and sexuality in the classroom than a large university, D'Elia wishes that our curriculum could more effectively open students to substantive discussions on the issues. "It would be a stretch to convince every professor on campus," she said, adding that she recognizes a rift between the questions that the LSC wants you to ask and the reality in which many of those questions remain unasked.

Political science and gender studies Professor Michael Bosia says the answer is twofold: "We do a pretty amazing job at exploring issues of gender and presenting feminist theory and theoretical perspectives. I think we could do more. One of the problems I see is that our gender studies program is a bit under-resourced."

As the LSC undergoes structural transformations in the coming years, should the college follow the lead of other institutions in requiring students to complete a course that specifically addresses this issue?

"I'm a strong advocate for teaching gender issues in all my classes, not as a separate silo, but as interwoven," said environmental studies Professor Anjanette DeCarlo's whose approach is nuanced and open to student interests.

"The more inclusivity we can do with diversity and environmental studies, the

"The college curriculum and the national conversation are both changing. This seems a rare occasion to provide students with a more holistic, in-depth approach to feminism through the college's core academic requirements. The curriculum should aspire to foster a diverse, informed, and intellectual dialogue on campus, which could ultimately lead to a more inclusive college environment."

stronger our solutions will be for the complex problems we're facing. They're so interconnected that I don't know how to separate them," DeCarlo said.

The diversity conversation on campus generally lacks comfort and vocabulary. The media is rife with panels and discussions on subjects of race, class, gender, and sexuality, but the frequency of rhetorical slips in the news and social media's humiliation tactics do not encourage dialogue. DeCarlo reiterates that "The classroom is a safe place" for these conversations.

of feminist, racial, and sexual discourses. Van Rooyen said, "I want people to want to be exposed to [feminism]."

The problem at hand is not exclusive to St. Michael's College. The dwindling presence of small liberal arts colleges is indicative of a shift from holistic to career-oriented programs that have formed in tandem with rising tuition costs. This comes, inevitably, at the expense of the humanities. "If anything we need more humanities requirements for the LSC," D'Elia said.

together in terms of feminism and feminist theory."

The college curriculum and the national conversation are both changing. This seems a rare occasion to provide students with a more holistic, in-depth approach to feminism through the college's core academic requirements. The curriculum should aspire to foster a diverse, informed, and intellectual dialogue on campus, which could ultimately lead to a more inclusive college environment.

Nothing is easy about discussing feminism, or issues concerning race and sexuality. But, this is the very premise on which liberal arts colleges continue to exist: a diverse curriculum challenges our assumptions and preconceptions, and reveals the depth of the world.

No student should graduate from Saint Michael's College without confronting race, gender, and sexuality in the classroom. If a student does complete an undergraduate program without engaging in any substantial conversation about these topics, that student would find difficulty adapting to the contemporary workplace and any community that values pluralism. From her research, DeCarlo recognizes an opportunity to shift the paradigm of human relations from dominance to partnership. "Inclusiveness and feminism are part of our evolution to heal the relationship between men and women, and for men and women. I'm holding out that this is our new evolutionary shift in consciousness," DeCarlo said.

If change is to take place at the levels of the institution and the campus culture, everyone must have an opportunity to join the discussion. Otherwise, we risk sending students into the world with little cognizance or consideration of social difference. The only way the college can guarantee this is if curriculum addresses it – that is where we must begin.

Cory Warren '16 is an english major and political science minor. He can be contacted by email at cwarren3@mail.smcvt.edu.

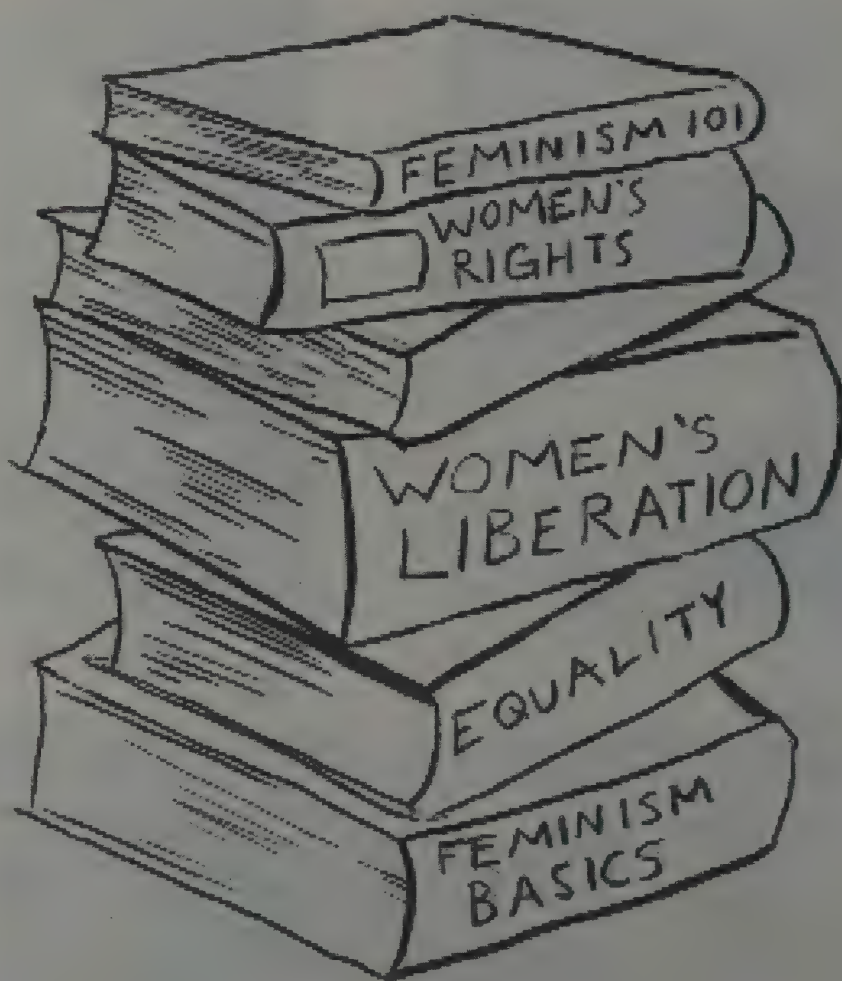


ILLUSTRATION BY NICHOLAS VERDIRAME

Still, many students do not feel they have the opportunity to join the conversation in their classes. Suzanna van Rooyen and Colin Fitzgerald, '19, said they lack exposure to feminist and social justice tenets so far in their first year. This, demonstrates the need for the curriculum to help students navigate the complexity

The LSC should offer credit for interdisciplinary academic experiences, so that students can join these conversations in humanities, social science, or natural science classes. "We don't integrate courses across the curriculum," Bosia said. "One thing we don't do well is bring things to-

NETFLIX

and chill?



By Riley Stefano
Contributing Columnist

Modern love on a college campus

be we just haven't encountered that kind of love yet, but maybe some of you have. And, if you have, then you are way ahead of the game by today's relationship standards, because that is exactly what a majority of relationships and flirt-ationships are in college: one big game, and many of us play along with it.

She likes him. He likes her. She hates her. It is the endless cycle of the love triangle that began with Sir Lancelot and King Arthur and has trickled its way through time to the wonderful world of college.

We all play along with the game because otherwise, we lose. This game makes us ask, "How long should I wait to text him back?" or my personal favorite, "He asked me to hangout—is that a date? Maybe he just wants to watch a movie and chill." We all overanalyze every little detail of text messages and communication through technology because that little device you probably have within 50 feet of you right now is partly to blame for the direction the game of romance has turned.

In the 1940's, the age I associate most with love and romance because I have probably watched *The Notebook* too many times, landlines and face-to-face conversation was all that existed. There was no, "How long should I wait to text back?" or "She hasn't texted me in an hour, should I send another?" It was making dates and actually going on outings away from the dorm room. I think if my Nana knew about the generalizations associated with Tinder, she would tell me to go to confession. It's just a different world that we have grown up in and because technology is so influential in our lives, it has become equally as influential in the game of love.

I can't say I am the biggest fan of

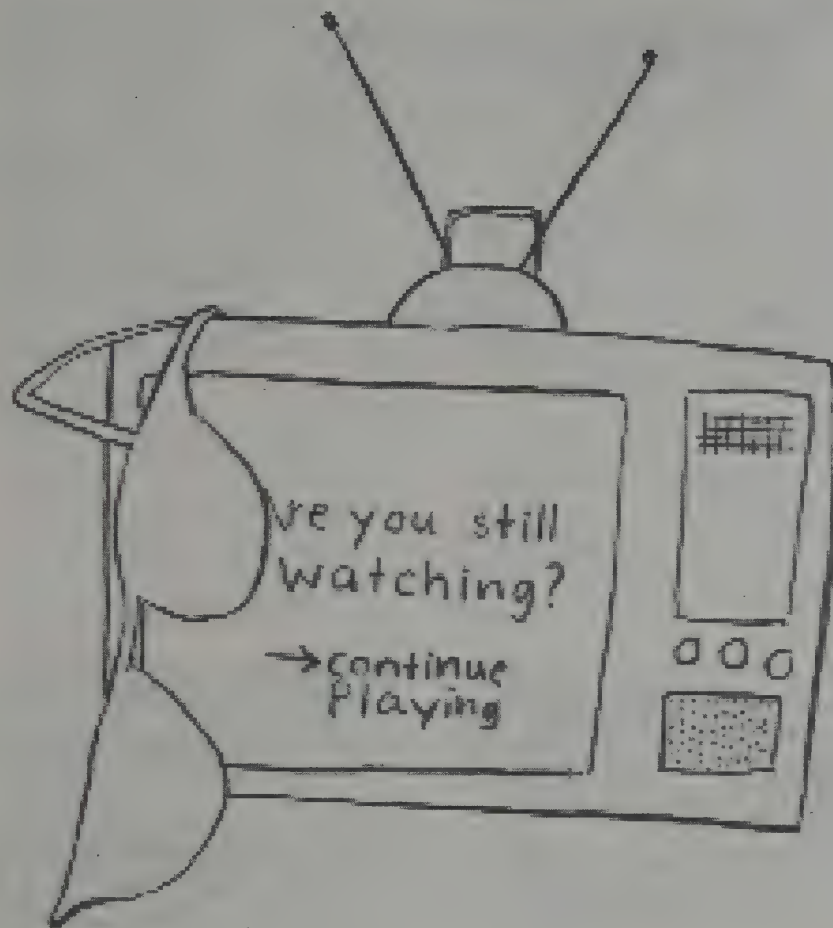


ILLUSTRATION BY NICHOLAS VERDIRAME

what the game has turned the ideas of love in college into. My entire life I was convinced I was going to meet Mr. Right in one of my English Lit classes and he would say something super intellectual and my whole world would turn upside down with my stomach. As a senior, those chances have become pretty slim, and a lot of that has to do with my lack of courage due to a fear of rejection. The fact is, courage more often than not comes about in liquid form out in the 300's on a Saturday night. And then we go right back around to, "So then, want to chill and watch Netflix?"

A lot of us are still stuck in it and try-

ing to figure out all of the rules. We need to break out of the game: go up to that cute girl in class and ask for her number! And girls, don't wait around for him to ask you, you have a voice too -- use it.

Love in college is one big game, and we are all just trying to figure out the rules. But, the game is constantly changing, so why shouldn't the rules change too?

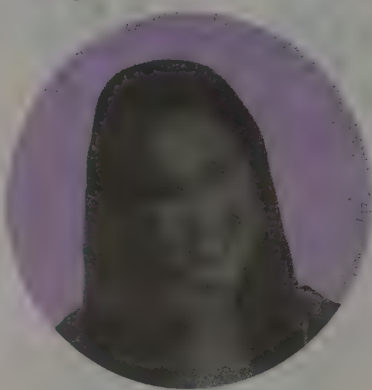
Riley Stefano is a senior english major with minors in business and creative writing. She can be reached at rstefano@mail.smcvt.edu

ARTiculations: Peer behind the canvas of three senior artists



Video story by Alyson Campbell and Seth Boudreau on defender.smcvt.edu

Beyond coral reefs: A student reflection on diving in Cuba



By Lauren Cuculino
Contributing Writer

Cuba's Bay of Pigs- What do you think of when you hear that quartet of powerful words? Patriotism, conflict, and JFK are some responses that probably come to mind.

Thankfully, the relationship between the United States and Cuba is quickly progressing to a more positive one than it has been for the past 50 years. A relationship that was once fuelled by disagreement and conflict is now being

replaced with one of freedom and exploration.

One of the few groups of Americans to take the plunge into the colorful bay were 13 Purple Knights and their passionate professors, Karen Talentino, René Schmauder, and Mark Lubkowitz. Also in the group was Dawn Ellinwood, dean of students and vice president of Student Affairs.

The students consisted of an abundance of seniors, a handful of juniors, and a duo of sophomores who enrolled in a Coral Reef Ecology class in the fall of 2015. After a semester of examining the biology of coral reefs, our group departed for a 10-day journey filled with marine research and Cuban culture.

None of us knew what to expect. Most thought we signed up for a tropical excursion, filled with a few hours of schoolwork. However, once we were told to bring our own toilet paper, the perception of the trip immediately changed.

After we landed in Havana, the humid,

“None of us knew what to expect. Most thought we signed up for a tropical excursion, filled with a few hours of schoolwork. However, once we were told to bring our own toilet paper, the perception of the trip immediately changed.”

tropical air swarmed throughout our van. We zoomed around the streets of Havana and in the rural areas on the way to the Bay of Pigs, seeing firsthand why Cuba is deemed a developing country. Drive thru's, washing machines, wireless Internet, and other modern conveniences that we take for granted were not easily found in the streets of the country. The people were welcoming, friendly and interested in what we were doing including the staff of the University of Havana's Institute of Marine Biology, who treated us like family.

We scuba dived for three days in the southern beaches of Playa Larga while staying with heart-warming host fami-

lies. Every day we dined on plantains, pork, rice, and delicate cakes. Even though only a few of us were fluent Spanish speakers, we were always able to communicate through a lighthearted game of gestures and basic vocabulary.

Our observations revealed that while the country is opening its doors to an increased number of tourists, cruise ships, and construction projects, the influx of activity may prove to be detrimental to the overall health of the coral reefs, which are among the best in the Caribbean. The experience and wealth of cultural and scientific insight cannot easily be described, but ultimately, this excursion changed us all.



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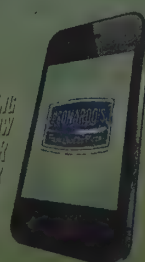
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Beyond coral reefs: A faculty reflection on diving in Cuba



By Dawn Ellinwood and Karen Talentino
Contributing Columnists

A little more than seven weeks ago we were flying on China Air to Havana, Cuba, along with 13 St. Michael's College students and two of our peers. Yes, that's right; the national Chinese airlines had just established (the week before) a regular flight to Havana from Beijing with a connection in Montreal, presumably in anticipation of increased travel activity as a result of the defrosting of US-Cuba relations.

This was the second trip to Cuba by St. Michael's students as part of the Academic Study Trip program, in which faculty lead students on unique and intellectually rigorous international trips. The focus of this trip was Cuban coral reef ecology – it turns out that these coral reefs are some of the most healthy and pristine reefs in the Caribbean!

The trip itinerary involved 10 days of Cuban culture and history, as well as 10 dives (either by SCUBA or snorkel) during which students collected data (underwater!) on the diversity and health of the coral reefs. The dive sites included reefs in the Bay of Pigs on the south shore of the island, and two sites on the more populated north shore.

Patricia Gonzalez, director of the University of Havana Marine Institute, guided our research in clear blue water, surrounded by corals of all shapes, sizes and colors which cover every surface and whose limestone skeletons form the framework of the coral reefs. Associated with these reefs were diverse fish, from tiny gobies and bennies that hide in purple sponges, to the territorial damselfish that attack your mask if you get too close, to the large parrotfish that feed on algae by audibly biting off pieces of the reef.

When people ask about our impressions of Cuba we have similar responses – the Cuban people are amazingly friendly, we felt very safe, the 1950's-era cars are beautiful, and the country's infrastructure is in terri-

ble condition. A more sobering experience this year was the visit to the National Revolutionary Museum. There were hundreds of photos and artifacts of the "revolution," a period following the country's independence in 1902, during which the Cuban people have been subjected to a series of revolutionary takeovers by dictators, some of whom maintained their authority through torture and murder.

Through it all, the Cuban people have maintained a sense of optimism and happiness, despite challenging conditions of poverty, inadequate food, and insufficient public services of all kinds.

Both of us are privileged to have been able to share this exciting experience with

our students. The University of Havana is anxious for us to make this trip an annual event, because they are so pleased with the relationship. Our hope is that the trip can involve different faculty and topics each year. It would be a unique opportunity for Saint Michael's students to observe first-hand the changes taking place in Cuba during the next few years.

Dawn Ellinwood is the vice president of student affairs and can be reached at delinwood@smcvt.edu. Karen Talentino is the vice president for academic affairs and a professor of biology and can be reached at ktalentino@smcvt.edu.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN CUCULINO

A group of 13 St. Michael's students, professors Mark Lubkowitz, Karen Talentino, and René Schmauder, and Dawn Ellinwood, vice president of student affairs, pose after a SCUBA dive and snorkel in Playa Larga, Cuba during their December trip studying coral reef ecology.

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Notorious baseball rivalry reignites

By Sheridan Prestero
Contributing Columnist

The Red Sox-Yankees rivalry is the most famous in all of sports, with countless memories and tales of heartbreak on either side. However, some say that it has lacked intensity in recent years. With aging lineups, both teams have had difficulty in consistently winning, and staying relevant in Major League Baseball (MLB). This would paint a very bleak picture on a storied rivalry, but there's reason to have hope that it will reignite very soon. Here are some reasons of why to expect a very different image next season.

Red Sox

Over the offseason, newly hired executive Dave Dombrowski flexed his checkbook and signed David Price, Craig Kimbrel, and Chris Young. The platoon outfielder, Young, will bring depth to an already proven defense. In addition, having hit .252 with 14 home runs and 42 runs batted in (RBIs) over 140 games with the Yankees shows that Young will provide offensive firepower when called upon.

Kimbrel, Dombrowski's second pick-up, will be the Sox' late game closer.

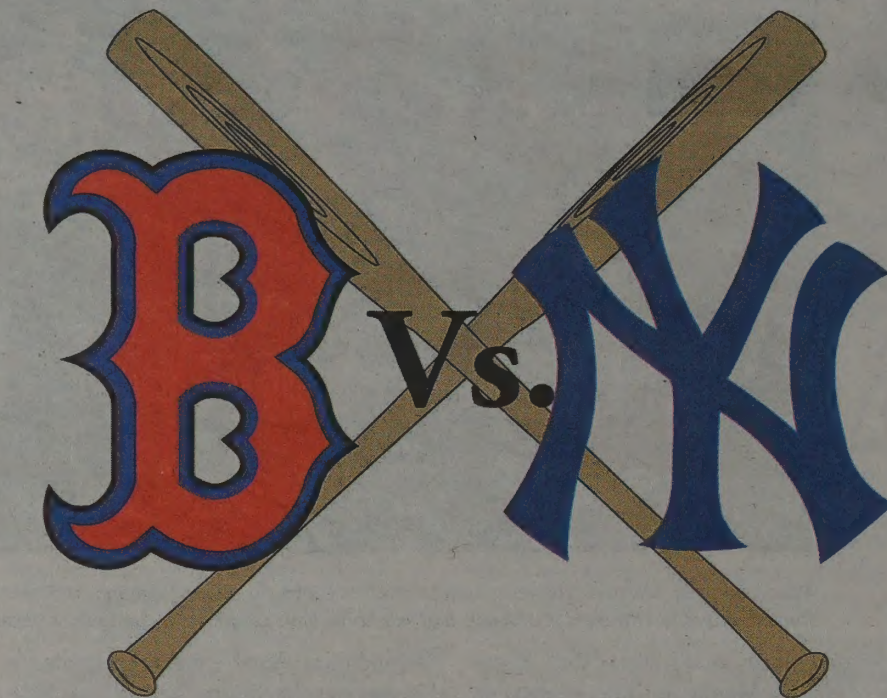


ILLUSTRATION BY SETH BOUDREAU

Touting a 90.7 save percentage over 355 games, Kimbrel is one of the best of his trade. He'll take enormous pressure off of the Sox' struggling relievers, and will provide imperative late game confidence. Lastly, David Price has been the subject of extreme hype, and with good reason. He has cemented himself among the best pitchers in the game, and is somehow getting better. In 2015, Price hurled his

way to a second place finish for the Cy Young award with a 2.45 ERA, and 225 strikeouts (SO) over 32 games. To compliment these impressive additions, the Sox' young outfield is ready to solidify their status as one of the best in baseball. Comprised of Rusney Castillo, Mookie Betts, Jackie Bradley Jr., and Chris Young, the "BBC" is one of the more athletic groups in all of the MLB. With

the abilities to make both outstanding plays and tremendous home runs, this outfield can do it all.

Yankees

To combat the Red Sox' impressive signings, the Yankees quickly got to work and signed one of the best late relievers in the game. In 2015, Aroldis Chapman had 33 saves, good for a 91.7 save percentage on the year. With an already frightening array of relievers including Dellin Betances, and Andrew Miller, coming back against the Pinstripes after the 7th inning will be nearly impossible. They also acquired Starlin Castro from the Cubs, a proven infielder. During his tenure with the Cubs, Castro was a three time all star with a career .281 batting average (BA) and collected just under 1000 hits. He is a good fit for the Yankees not only for his offensive capabilities, but also for his abilities to stay healthy, and consistently in the game.

Although the entirety of the American League East will be competitive, the Red Sox and Yankees will lead the charge. With improved pitching and durable utility men, each team had a successful signing period. Expect to see both teams neck and neck down the entire season, with one team most likely finishing out on top of the American League.



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Final wrap on winter sports



PHOTO BY KAYLEE SULLIVAN COURTESY OF SMC ATHLETICS



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PHOTO COURTESY OF BARRY RALSTON

Above left: Men's basketball captain Matt Bonds, '17, takes a shot Saturday, Feb. 13 against St. Anselm College in the Ross Recreation Center to spark an 84-75 win for St. Michael's. The Purple Knights finished their season with a 7-19 record, losing to Stonehill College 84-71 in their final game.

Center: Women's basketball captain Megan Gaudreau, '16, dribbles the ball up the court in St. Michael's 63-60 Senior Day win over St. Anselm College Feb. 13. The Purple Knights finished their season with a 9-17 record, beating Stonehill College 77-69 in their final game. WW

Above right: Julie Shea, '16, competes in a home meet against St. Lawrence University Jan. 17 where the Purple Knights won 124-98. Shea won the 100 breaststroke, 200 IM and the 200 medley relay. The women's swimming & diving team finished their season with a 6-3 record, winning all four of their home meets.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SMC ATHLETICS



PHOTO BY MARK YETTER

Above left: Emily Loeb, '16, handles the puck in the neutral zone in a 3-0 loss to the University of Southern Maine Nov. 13 at Cairns Arena in South Burlington. The Purple Knights finished their season with a 6-19-2 record, losing to Franklin Pierce University 6-0 in their final game.

Above right: Danny Duffy, '19, finishes 18th in the giant slalom event at the 2016 Colby College Carnival Jan. 22. Three St. Michael's students have qualified to participate in the NCAA Championship March 9 in Steamboat Springs, Colo., including Meggane Grand, '18, Guillaume Grand, '19, and Torjus Grimsrud, '19.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SMC ATHLETICS

Above: Nicole Cordingly, '16, finishes 43rd in the giant slalom event at the 2016 Colby College Carnival Jan. 22.

PHOTO BY MARK YETTER

Left: Danny Divis, '17, looks to move the puck to a teammate during a 6-0 loss to New England College Nov. 13 at the Cairns Arena in South Burlington. The Purple Knights finished their season with a 6-18 record, losing to Norwich University 4-1 in their final game.



Dynamic duo: siblings shred mountains

Grand family carves its mark on Vermont



PHOTO COURTESY OF SMC ATHLETICS

Above: The skiing siblings, Guillaume Grand, '19, (left) and Meggane Grand, '18, (right) cross-block gates en route to finishing 4th and 7th respectively at the Colby carnival at Sugarloaf on Jan. 23. Below: Guillaume Grand, '19, and Meggane, '18, hold a French flag in front of their residence building, Cashman Hall, at St. Michael's College on Sunday.

By Maddy Hansen
Staff Writer

When walking into Alliot Hall, one may not expect to hear a fast-paced, energetic conversation in French, but if Meggane and Guillaume Grand are nearby, that will likely be the case. Books, papers, and laptops frequently accessorize their round table as the siblings try to complete homework before they leave to train at Smugglers' Notch or Stowe.

The Grand siblings are members of the Saint Michael's Alpine Ski Team and are having a successful race season. Both siblings qualified for the NCAA National Championships in March where they will race against the top collegiate skiers from around the country. Since this is his first year in the U.S., Guillaume, '19, explained that he is not sure what a realistic goal is for the championship race. He said that he would go into the race and give it his best effort. After a pause, he added, "Top 10 would be good too."

Like her brother, Meggane, '18, wants to go to the championship race for the experience, and hopefully come back the next two seasons and continue to improve. Looking ahead to future seasons, she said her goal is to continue to get into the top seven at college races.

The first time Meggane broke into the top seven was at the Colby Carnival race held at Sugarloaf Jan. 23. "I was really pumped about that," Meggane said. "It was just so much work and I had surgery in the fall on my knee, and I was pretty stressed out."

Saint Michael's Alpine Ski Team head

coach Gus MacLeod recalls what he considers a breakthrough moment for Meggane during a slalom race last season at Sugarbush on Feb. 20, 2015. Meggane ended up winning the race by .06 seconds and then went on to win two more slalom races at Killington on March 26 and 27, 2015. "I felt that after those races she realized that she belongs in the front of the pack," MacLeod wrote in an email to the Defender.

Guillaume is no stranger to the podium either. In his first two races in the U.S., Guillaume placed third and shortly thereafter, he stood atop the podium on December 1, 2015 at Sugarbush, winning the race by over half a second.

MacLeod points out that both Meggane and Guillaume are extremely driven athletes, which has caused the caliber of skiing to rise on both the men's and women's team. "They both strive to be the best at everything that they do in and out of the classroom," MacLeod wrote.

Meggane and Guillaume take their skiing seriously, but they also have a desire to learn and succeed in the classroom. Meggane is a political science and economics double major and Guillaume is pursuing a degree in business administration.

In France, the Grands felt the atmosphere regarding ski racing was much more competitive, even amongst teammates. "It was a lot of complaining and then I was kind of getting sucked into that mentality," Meggane said. At St. Michael's, the Grands have found a renewed energy for skiing. "When I came here I was like, 'Wow, this is awesome! I'm actually having fun!'" Meggane said. The



PHOTO BY YUCHENG MOU

other members of the ski team have also enhanced the Grand's experience. "We are really good friends," Guillaume said.

Before coming to the U.S., Meggane and Guillaume began skiing at a young age. The siblings were raised in La Plagne, France, an area known for its world-renowned skiing in the French Alps. Additionally, both of the sibling's parents were World Cup ski racers. Mother Olga Fernandez Marañón was a member of the Spanish National Team, and father Philippe Grand was a member of the French National Team.

As the Grands transitioned to middle school and high school, they found that

it was not uncommon to go over a month without seeing one another. For all the years they were skiing, they very seldom skied together as the men's and women's race series were often at different mountains. For the first time, the Grands are skiing together on the same team.

Since Meggane knows him better than anyone on the team, Guillaume explained that she can give him more personalized advice. "When I'm doing something bad, she can tell me," Guillaume said.

Meggane was apprehensive about having her older brother come to the same school, explaining that she was concerned about having boundaries, but she quickly came to realize that Guillaume was

motivating her and improving her skiing.

Yet, there is no sibling rivalry when it comes to their skiing performances. "He's three years older than me and he's a guy, so we're just on completely different spectrums," Meggane said. Even though the men and women do not directly compete with one another, Guillaume believes that Meggane is pushed by the men's skiing.

By not being in direct competition with each other, the Grands have maintained an incredible bond. "We've always been pretty much like best friends," Meggane said. "Not just like brother and sister."